

REBEL GROUPS: MORTAR STRIKE TARGETS ASSAD

ANNE BARNARD

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BEIRUT - Two Syrian rebel groups claimed Thursday that they had attacked President Bashar Assad's motorcade in the capital, Damascus, as he headed to a mosque for morning prayers on Eid al-Fitr, the holiday marking the end of the holy month of Ramadan.



Syrian President Bashar Assad delivers a speech at an Iftar dinner with political and religious figures in Damascus, Syria. (AP Photo/SANA)

But the information minister, Omran al-Zoubi, dismissed the rebel claims, telling Syrian state television: "The news is wholly untrue."

Video released by rebel groups showed smoke rising over Malki, the upscale neighborhood in central Damascus where Assad lives and where, in calmer times, he was known for driving his own car. The area has been relatively untouched by the occasional rebel shells that reach central Damascus, which is largely cordoned off from the fighting by government checkpoints. If the rebel claims are true, the attack would be the closest call known for Assad during the conflict.

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A helicopter drops water over a wildfire on Thursday, Aug. 8, 2013, in Cabazon, Calif. About 1,500 people have fled and three are injured as a wildfire in the Southern California Mountains quickly spreads. Several small communities have evacuated.

(AP Photo/Jae C. Hong)

Southern California wildfire grows extensively

JULIE WATSON

Associated Press

BEAUMONT, Calif. (AP) — A rapidly spreading wildfire chewed through a rugged Southern California mountain range on Thursday, destroying at least 10 homes, threatening more than 500 other residences and forcing some 1,500 people to flee.

Five people were injured, while more than 1,000 firefighters, 13 helicopters and six air tankers battled the flames as they pushed eastward along the San Jacinto Mountains, a desert range 90 miles east of Los Angeles, Cal Fire Riverside Chief John R. Hawkins said. A man near the origin of the fire suffered serious burns,

Hawkins said. Four firefighters were also injured, including two who suffered heat exhaustion. Officials did not have details to release on the other two.

At least 10 homes have been destroyed and Hawkins said that number would likely triple as authorities make their way into

the charred areas to assess the damage.

Hawkins said the wind-fed fire that sparked at 2:05 p.m. Wednesday is one of the "most rapidly spreading, dangerous fires that I've seen" in his 50 years as a firefighter.

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Muslims celebrate Ramadan end, strife casts shadow

KARIN LAUB
TONY G. GABRIEL
Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — Millions of Muslims paid respects at ancestral graves, shared festive family meals and visited beaches and amusement parks Thursday to mark the end of the fasting month of Ramadan, but violence and political tension overshadowed holiday joy in hotspots like Egypt, Yemen and Afghanistan. The three-day Eid al-Fitr

particularly distraught over discord among the faithful during the holiday season. In Egypt, where rival political camps have been facing off since the military ousted President Mohammed Morsi last month, worshipper Medhat Abdel Moneam said he doesn't like to see Muslims quarreling. Abdel Moneam was among hundreds of Morsi opponents performing prayers in Cairo's Tahrir Square.

Muslim Brotherhood figure. Protesters at one of the pro-Morsi sit-ins set up an amusement park for children with trampolines, slides and water games. For many of the world's hundreds of millions of Muslims, Eid al-Fitr begins with a cemetery visit to pay respects to ancestors. In parts of the Middle East, people typically place palm fronds on graves. In other holiday customs, children get haircuts, new

dent Hamid Karzai condemned the attack and urged the Taliban to lay down their arms. In northern Iraq, police closed many streets in the mainly Sunni city of Mosul to prevent car bombs during the holiday. Bombings are part of Iraq's ongoing sectarian strife, and violence has picked up in recent months. Mosul resident Mohammed al-Samak said he planned to take his wife and five

mosque, but this appeared to be untrue. Two opposition figures said the route was hit but not the convoy itself. State TV broadcast images of Assad praying at the mosque. Syria's brutal war, in its third year, has killed more than 100,000 people and uprooted millions, with no end in sight.

In tent camps that have sprung up in neighboring countries, Syrian refugees marked the holiday with a mix of hope and despair. "We wish in this Eid that God liberates Syria and to return safely to our country," said Ibrahim Ismail, a refugee from Damascus, after he performed holiday prayers with others in Jordan's sprawling Zaatari camp.

Yet, he said, "we feel truly said because we are not at home, we are displaced." In the Palestinian territories, rival leaders Mahmoud Abbas in the West Bank and Ismail Haniyeh in the Gaza Strip used holiday speeches to stake out their opposing views on the negotiations with Israel that resumed last week.

Abbas, the Western-backed Palestinian president, said he hoped that by next year's holiday, "our people will achieve their hope of freedom and independence." Abbas is embarking on a new attempt, after a five-year freeze, to negotiate the terms of a Palestinian state with Israel. Haniyeh, the top leader of the Islamic militant Hamas organization in Gaza, urged Abbas to walk away from the negotiations, noting that 20 years of intermittent talks have delivered no results. "From here, we reaffirm our rejection of negotiations," he told worshippers.

In Yemen, security was tight Thursday in the capital, Sanaa, a day after the government announced it had foiled an al-Qaida plot to take over key cities in the south and attack strategic ports and gas facilities. Multiple checkpoints were set up across Sanaa, and tanks and other military vehicles guarded vital institutions. □



Palestinians and Israelis enjoy the Mediterranean sea during the first day of the Eid al-Fitr holiday in Tel Aviv, Israel, Thursday, Aug. 8, 2013. The three-day Eid al-Fitr holiday marks the end of the holy fasting month of Ramadan. One of the most important holidays in the Muslim world, Eid al-Fitr, is marked with prayers, family reunions and other festivities.

(AP Photo/Oded Balilty)

holiday, which caps Ramadan, also highlighted the long-running divide between Sunni and Shiite Muslims.

Many Sunnis began celebrating Thursday, while Shiites were to mark the holiday Friday, based on different views about sighting the moon.

In recent months, sectarian tensions have risen between Sunnis and Shiites, with the two sides increasingly lined up on opposite sides of Syria's civil war. Ramadan and Eid al-Fitr are a time of increased religious devotion, and some Muslims said they're

"I am very sad about what is going on in Egypt," he said of the intensifying showdown between Morsi's Muslim Brotherhood and interim rulers backed by the military. "Today is Eid, and the Egyptian people are divided into two sides, two different thoughts, and it's a shame because both sides are Muslims."

Morsi supporters, camped out at two other sites in Cairo, said they will not give up until Morsi is reinstated. "Whoever thought that the revolution would come to an end once Ramadan is over was wrong," said Mohammed el-Beltagy, a top

clothes and toys, while well-off families slaughter animals and distribute the meat to the poor. Relatives visit each other, gather for festive meals, such as lamb and rice sprinkled with pine nuts, or spend the day in parks or on beaches.

In eastern Afghanistan, a bomb planted in a cemetery killed seven women and seven children from an extended family as they visited a relative's grave as part of Eid observances. There was no claim of responsibility, but a man whose daughter was killed in the blast blamed Taliban insurgents. Afghan Presi-

children to an amusement park later in the day despite the potential risk.

"We are aware that the security situation in Mosul is bad, but we cannot stay home all the time," he said. "The family and I decided to have a nice Eid, away from fear and sadness."

In Syria, devastated by civil war, rebels fired rockets and mortar shells Thursday at an upscale neighborhood in the capital, Damascus, where President Bashar Assad attended Eid prayers.

At least two rebel brigades claimed to have hit Assad's motorcade on its way to a

Obama calls on Greece to balance growth, austerity

JOSH LEDERMAN
MARJORIE OLSTER

Associated Press
WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama called on Greece Thursday to balance austerity with growth as it seeks to recover from financial crisis, invoking a need for the Greek people to “see a light at the end of the tunnel.”

nod to the major international assistance provided to Greece and the parallel debt struggles faced by other European Union nations.

Greece is seeking to pull itself out of a 6-year-old recession but still faces major economic troubles. Since 2010, Greece has been surviving on money from a \$319 billion bailout pack-

age put together by the Washington-based International Monetary Fund and European lenders.

Accentuating the dire joblessness plaguing the nation, new government data, released as Samaras prepared to meet with Obama, showed unemployment in Greece hitting a record high of 27.6 percent in May. For youth, the

jobless rate approached 65 percent.

“The emphasis has to be on growth and on the creation of new jobs — especially for the youth,” he said.

Obama’s message to Samaras echoed the cries in Greece that austerity measures imposed by other European nations as a condition for bailouts has been too much, too fast.

Germany and other E.U. nations that had to bail out their neighbors to prevent further damage to the regional economy have pressed Greece and other high-debt nations to focus on reducing their debt to restore market confidence and lower government borrowing costs.

But the Obama administration has argued those efforts must be tempered by more stimulus to boost growth and counter the high unemployment — and to increase global demand.

The IMF said last week that Greece has made “exceptional” progress in stabilizing its finances but still needs to undertake major structural changes to its economy, such as collect-

ing more taxes and selling off state-owned enterprises to raise more revenue. The IMF also said Greece is facing an \$11 billion shortfall in 2014-15 to finance its bailout program and will likely need more aid from its European partners to plug that hole.

Before heading to the White House, Samaras met with Secretary of State John Kerry. State Department spokeswoman Jen Psaki said Kerry “recognized the difficult, but essential reforms Greece is taking to restore market confidence and fuel economic growth” and expressed U.S. solidarity with the Greek people.

Defense cooperation, counterterrorism and a proposed free trade agreement between the U.S. and Europe were also on the agenda during the Greek leader’s visit to the U.S. Amid major unrest in Egypt and Syria, and an al-Qaida threat emanating from the Arabian Peninsula that has shuttered more than a dozen U.S. diplomatic posts, Obama touted the role a secure Greece can play in mitigating tensions. □



President Barack Obama and Greek Prime Minister Antonis Samaras talk during their meeting in the Oval Office of the White House in Washington, Thursday, Aug. 8, 2013. The White House said the meeting will “underscore ongoing support for Greece’s efforts to reform its economy and promote a return to prosperity.”

(AP Photo/Pablo Martinez Monsivais)

Capping a meeting at the White House, Obama commended Greek Prime Minister Antonis Samaras for pursuing bold, sweeping structural reforms to deal with its debt burden. The two leaders said they agreed that at the same time, Greece must find ways to grow its economy and create jobs to combat harrowing unemployment. “We know from history that those countries that are growing, those countries where employment is high and people are increasing their productivity ... have an easier time reducing their debt burden than those countries where people are feeling hopeless,” Obama said. The Greek prime minister said his citizens have made huge sacrifices, but that those sacrifices are “not going to be in vain.” He said if and when Greece overcomes its economic challenges, it will be European success story — a

US trims forecast for busy hurricane season

SETH BORENSTEIN

AP Science Writer
WASHINGTON (AP) — This Atlantic hurricane season may not be quite as busy as U.S. forecasters once thought, but they still warn of an unusually active and potentially dangerous few months to come.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration updated its hurricane season forecast Thursday, trimming back the number of hurricanes they expect this year to between six and nine. That is a couple less than they predicted back in May.

The forecast calls for three to five of those hurricanes to be major, with winds greater than 110 mph (175 kph). The updated forecast also predicts 13 to 19 named storms this year. Both of those predictions are just one less forecast three months ago.

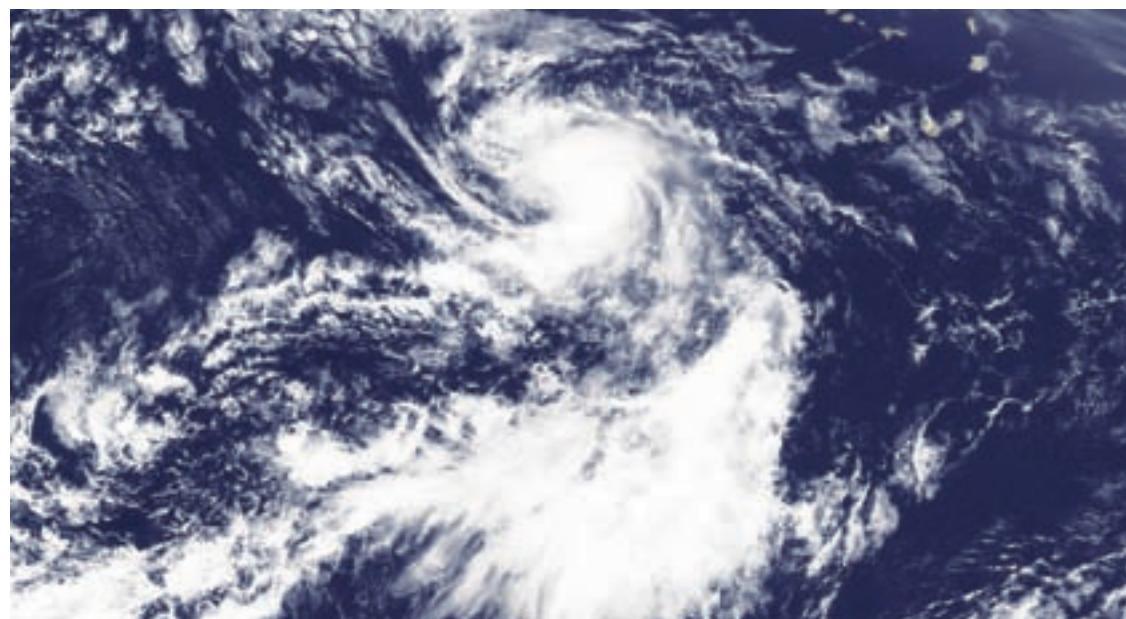
The chance that 2013 will be busier than normal remains at 70 percent. A normal year has 12 named storms, six hurricanes and three major storms.

“Make no bones about it,

those ranges indicate a lot of activity still to come,” said lead seasonal hurricane forecaster Gerry Bell of NOAA’s Climate Prediction Center. “We’re coming to the peak of hurricane

season now.”

Hurricane season starts in June and runs until the end of November, but peak hurricane season runs from mid-August to mid-October. □



This handout photo provided by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), taken July 24, 2013, shows Tropical Storm Dorian. Federal forecasters are slightly reducing their prediction for a busy Atlantic hurricane season.

(AP Photo/NOAA)

Southern California wildfire grows extensively

Continued from Front

The fire was estimated at 17 square miles Thursday, with 10 percent containment, but it was growing, causing concern that the direction could change in the area, which is known as a wind tunnel. "The conditions at the front right now are very dangerous," Hawkins said.

Authorities still have not determined what caused the fire.

Evacuation orders were issued in five towns. Flames were marching toward the hardscrabble town of Cabazon, where hundreds scrambled to leave in the pre-dawn hours Thursday as the mountain ridge behind their homes glowed red.

Many returned after sunrise

to pack up more belongings and watch the flickering line of fire snaking along the brown, scrubby mountains.

Linda Walls, 62, sat with her family in lawn chairs and watched fire crews scrambling to douse the flames marching toward her modest home less than a quarter mile away. An American flag flapped in the gusty wind that kicked

up the fire. She wiped her brow, feeling the scorching heat.

Gray and pink-tinted clouds billowed across the otherwise crystal blue sky. Neighbors could be heard coughing as they filled the beds of pickup trucks with motocross bikes, boxes of clothing, toys and packaged food.

"It seems to be taking off now," she said as sirens whirled by. "All you see are the firemen inside the blaze."

At the end of her street, a group of ostriches paced in their cages as the hill above them burned. A firefighter rushing by said they would do what they can to protect them. Nearby another pen was filled with goats.

In the nearby town of Banning, Lili Arroyo, 83, left with only her pet cockatiel, Tootsie, in its cage and a bag of important papers from her home, which was rebuilt after being destroyed in a 2006 wildfire.

"The smoke was so bad you couldn't see," said Arroyo, who lives in the town of Banning. "There were embers and ash coming down all over the sky. The smoke was really thick. I was starting not to be able

to breathe."

Evacuation orders covered an RV resort called the Silent Valley Club, the rural communities of Poppet Flats, Twin Pines, Edna Valley and Vista Grande, portions of the city of Cabazon along Interstate 10, and a camping area known as Black Mountain. A veteran of many evacuations, Dana Wright, 43, wiped away a tear as she entered a shelter at a Beaumont school and went with her family to watch TV news. She had no idea whether her Poppet Flats home of 11 years had survived. Friends said a nearby home had burned. She and her husband hoped to find a way back up into the mountains. "I just want to look to see if we have a house," she said.

Most of Southern California's severe wildfires are associated with Santa Ana winds caused by high pressure over the West that sends a clockwise flow of air rushing down into the region.

This week's fire, however, was being fanned by a counter-clockwise flow around a low pressure area over northwest California.

It was the second major wildfire in the San Jacinto Mountains this summer. A blaze that erupted in mid-July spread over 43 square miles on peaks above Palm Springs, burned seven homes and forced 6,000 people out of Idyllwild and neighboring towns.

The latest fire also burned in the footprint of the notorious Esperanza Fire, a 2006, wind-driven inferno that overran a U.S. Forest Service engine crew. All five crew members died. A man was convicted of setting the fire and sentenced to death.

After touring the area, U.S. Sen. Barbara Boxer, D-Calif., who lives in Riverside County, said 165,000 acres have burned in California this year and climate change is setting conditions for more disastrous blazes, while budget cuts are limiting resources to fight them. □



Firefighters battle a wildfire, Thursday, Aug. 8, 2013, in Cabazon, Calif. About 1,500 people have fled and three are injured as a wildfire in the Southern California mountains quickly spreads. Several small communities have evacuated.

(AP Photo/Jae C. Hong)

Suspected CA child abductor might have explosives

ELLIOT SPAGAT

LAKEVILLE, Calif. (AP) — Authorities say a man suspected of abducting a 16-year-old Southern California girl might be armed with homemade explosives.

San Diego County Sheriff's Capt. Duncan Fraser said Thursday that evidence recovered at James Lee DiMaggio's home east of San Diego suggests he might have fled with explosives.

The search for Hannah Anderson and her younger brother has reached four Western states, Canada and Mexico.

The FBI and various state and local law enforcement agencies are assisting.

Fraser says it's possible DiMaggio was infatuated



This composite photo released by the San Diego Sheriff's Department shows James Lee Dimaggio, 40, left, Ethan Anderson, 8, and Hannah Anderson, 16, whose mother, Christina Anderson, 44, was one of two people found dead in a house fire Sunday night.

(AP Photo/San Diego Sheriff's Department)

with the girl. Her mother was found dead at DiMaggio's burning home near a dead child who might be the girl's younger brother. Oregon state police said there was a possible sighting of James Lee DiMaggio's blue Nissan Versa in

northeast California near Alturas on Wednesday, followed by another about 50 miles along the same highway near Lakeview, in south-central Oregon.

In Washington, State Patrol Trooper Russ Winger told KOMO Radio that a driver

near Bremerton reported seeing a blue Nissan hatchback on Highway 101 on Thursday morning with a man driving and a woman passenger.

Winger said a trooper checked the area and was unable to locate the car. □

JPMorgan nears settlement on 'London Whale' debacle

BEN PROTESS

JESSICA GREENBERG

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An investigation into a multibillion-dollar loss at JPMorgan Chase & Co. is heading into its final stage with authorities poised to bring civil charges, the latest legal blow to the nation's biggest bank.

After more than a year of gathering evidence about the trading blunder in London, the Securities and Exchange Commission is expected to strike a settlement with the bank as soon as this fall, according to people briefed on the case.

The bank is also bracing to pay a fine to a financial regulator in Britain, one person said.

In recent weeks, JPMorgan's lawyers have wrangled with the SEC over the contours of the settlement. While the regulator has indicated that it will not charge executives, the people said, it is aiming to extract some admission of wrongdoing from the bank. If JPMorgan agrees, that decision would represent a reversal for the agency after decades of allowing defendants to "neither admit nor deny wrongdoing." The SEC has scrutinized the bank over whether its London traders falsified records to hide losses from executives in New York. The SEC, the people said, could cite the bank for lax

controls that allowed the traders to distort the value of the bets.

The inquiry heated up after the bank acknowledged last summer that it underestimated the losses. JPMorgan restated its first-quarter 2012 earnings downward by \$459 million, conceding errors in the valuations.

A parallel criminal investigation, led by the FBI and federal prosecutors in Manhattan, is also ramping up. The authorities, after uncovering internal emails and phone recordings, suspect that the traders knew the losses would amount to more than the \$2 billion estimate the bank initially provided to investors on May 10, 2012, say the people briefed on the matter. The losses have since swelled to more than \$6 billion.

When federal investigators met this spring with Jamie Dimon, the bank's chief executive, some of the emails enraged him, said people briefed on the meeting. Dimon's face reddened, they said, as he professed outrage at the employees' 2012 emails.

Dimon, who is not suspected of any wrongdoing, told investigators that he was unaware traders were obscuring the losses when he held the May 2012 call.

Still, the trading losses left a rare stain on his reputation. Traders in London had made outsize wagers on credit derivatives - one be-



A Chase bank branch in New York, August 7, 2013. An investigation into a multibillion-dollar loss at JPMorgan Chase is heading into its final stage with authorities poised to bring civil charges in the latest legal blow to the nation's biggest bank.

(Leslye Davis/The New York Times)

came known as the "London whale" because of the size of the bet - pointing to a lack of controls at a bank once hailed for its risk management.

The trading blowup, reigniting broader concerns about risk taking on Wall Street, prompted congressional hearings that featured Dimon, claimed the jobs of several senior JPMorgan executives and even cost the CEO millions of dollars in compensation he forfeited in the aftermath of the losses.

Yet it is hardly JPMorgan's only legal woe. Losing its vaunted reputation as Washington's favorite bank, JPMorgan has become a magnet for scrutiny over the last couple years, drawing investigations from at least eight

federal agencies, a state regulator and two European nations. In addition to the trading loss, the author-

ities are investigating the bank in connection with its financial crisis-era mortgage business. □



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New York School Crisis:

Scores on math, English drop with new standards

JAVIER C. HERNÁNDEZ
ROBERT GEBELOFF

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NEW YORK - The number of New York students passing state reading and math exams dropped drastically this year, education officials reported Wednesday, unsettling parents, principals and teachers, and posing new challenges to a national effort to toughen academic standards.

In New York City, 26 percent of students in third through eighth grade passed the tests in English, and 30 percent passed in math, according to the New York state Education Department.

The exams were some of the first in the nation to be aligned with a more rigorous set of standards known as the Common Core, which emphasize deep analysis and creative problem-solving over short answers and memorization. Last year, under an easier test, 47 percent of city students passed in English, and 60 percent in math.

City and state officials spent months trying to steel the public for the grim figures. But when the results were released, many educators responded with shock that their students measured up so poorly against the new yardsticks of achievement. Chrystina Russell, principal of Global Technology Preparatory in East Harlem, said she did not know what she would tell parents, who will receive scores for their children in late August. At her middle school, which serves a large population of students from poor families, 7 percent of students were rated proficient in English, and 10 percent in math.

Last year, those numbers were 33 percent and 46 percent, respectively.

"Now we're going to come out and tell everybody that they've accomplished nothing this year and we've been pedaling backward?" Russell said. "It's depressing."

Across the state, the downward shift was similar: Thirty-one percent of students passed the exams in reading and math, compared with 55 percent in reading and 65 percent in math last year.

The Common Core standards have been adopted by 45 states and the District of Columbia. Although not technically national standards, they are ardently backed by



Mayor Michael Bloomberg speaks about new school test results during a news conference at the Tweed Courthouse in New York, Aug. 7, 2013.

(Fred R. Conrad/The New York Times)



Chrystina Russell, principal of Global Technology Preparatory in East Harlem, in New York, Aug. 6, 2013. The number of New York students passing reading and math exams dropped drastically this year, education officials reported on Wednesday, unsettling education professionals like Russell and posing new challenges to a national effort to toughen academic standards.

(Fred R. Conrad/The New York Times)

the Obama administration and education officials who contend that outdated and inconsistent guidelines leave students ill-prepared for college and the workforce. New York was one of the first states to develop tests based on

passed in reading and math.

And despite its large number of disadvantaged students, New York City almost matched the state's performance as a whole. But striking gaps in achievement between black and Hispanic students and their counterparts persisted. In math, 15 percent of black students and 19 percent of Hispanic students passed the exam, compared with 50 percent of white students and 61 percent of Asian students. Students with disadvantages struggled as well. On the English exam, 3 percent of nonnative speakers were deemed proficient, and 6 percent of students with disabilities passed.

Critics of Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg latched onto the disparities, arguing that the mayor's 12-year effort to overhaul city schools had neglected the

most vulnerable students. The politicians vying to succeed Bloomberg, who leaves office at the end of the year, quickly seized on the results.

William C. Thompson Jr., a Democratic candidate who has been endorsed by the city's teachers' union, said the results showed that for years the city had put too much of an emphasis on tests at the expense of deeper learning.

"Let's be clear: We've accomplished nothing," Thompson, a former city comptroller, said at a news conference. "Doors of opportunity are closing for families and communities across our city."

Other candidates were less critical. "We don't want to confuse test scores going down with stepping away from raising standards," Christine C. Quinn, the City Council speaker and a Democratic candidate for mayor, told reporters. □



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US Financial Front:

Americans see slow start to back-to-school shopping

ANNE D'INNOCENZIO

AP Retail Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The important back-to-school shopping season has started slowly for many U.S. retailers.

American shoppers, worried about their finances, showed they were more interested in buying discounted summer merchandise in July than in picking up new fall clothing for their children, according to figures released Thursday.

Revenue at stores open at least a year — an industry measure of a retailer's health — rose 3.8 percent in July, the slowest pace since March, according to a preliminary tally of 10 retailers by the International Council of Shopping Centers.

The figure, which excludes drugstore chains, was below a 5.5 percent increase in June.

"This raises more concern about the back-to-school season," said Ken Perkins, president of RetailMetrics, a research firm. "A vast number of shoppers are sticking to their shopping lists and are being very deal-driven."

Costco Wholesale Corp. was among the retailers reporting disappointing figures. The wholesale club operator said Thursday its U.S. and international revenue each rose 4 percent in the four-week period that ended Aug. 4, a performance that fell short of Wall Street estimates. Analysts surveyed by Thomson Reuters



School uniforms by Izod are displayed at JC Penney in New York. Shoppers, worried about their finances, showed they were more interested in buying discounted summer merchandise in July than in picking up new fall clothing for their children, according to figures released Thursday, Aug. 8, 2013.

(AP Photo/Mark Lennihan)

expected, on average, revenue growth of 5.1 percent for the total company and 4.5 percent and 5 per-

cent, respectively, from the U.S. and international portions.

Only a sliver of retail chains

now report monthly sales figures. But Thursday's tally adds to evidence that shoppers are being cautious about their purchases for the back-to-school season, the second-biggest selling period behind the winter holidays.

On Monday, teen retailer American Eagle Outfitters Inc. slashed its second-quarter outlook because of weak traffic and sluggish sales of women's merchandise. The teen retailer cited a highly promotional environment that only increased in July.

On Thursday, rival Aeropostale Inc. warned that it would have a wider loss than expected when it reports its second-quarter results later this month. □

Measure of US jobless claims falls to 6-year low

M. CRUTSINGER

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — A measure of Americans who applied for unemployment benefits over the past month has fallen to its lowest level in almost six years, signaling fewer layoffs.

The Labor Department said Thursday that the average number of people who applied for benefits over the past four weeks dropped 6,250 to 335,500. That's the lowest level since November 2007, the month before

the Great Recession began.

The four-week average smooths week to week fluctuations.

Weekly applications for unemployment aid increased by 5,000 last week to a seasonally adjusted 333,000. But that's up only slightly from the previous week's 5½-year low.

The decrease in the four-week average points to an encouraging trend for the job market. Applications, which are a proxy for lay-

offs, have fallen more than 10 percent since the start of the year. That's helped drive net job gains this year, which show the number of people hired minus the

number who lose or quit their jobs.

Economists were hopeful that the drop in layoffs could lead to some strengthening in the job

market. Jennifer Lee, senior economist at BMO Capital Markets, called the decline in the four-week moving average "very good news indeed." □

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Wife of Egypt's Morsi makes 1st appearance in public

MAGGIE MICHAEL
TONY G. GABRIEL
Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — The wife of Egypt's ousted President Mohammed Morsi told thousands of his supporters Thursday to remain defiant

ing protests, promising her husband "is coming back, God willing." Naglaa Mahmoud made her first appearance since the July 3 military coup, which followed mass rallies demanding her husband's

Muslim holiday of Eid el-Fitr, marking the end of Ramadan, appeared aimed at galvanizing support after the group fell from power after just one year of Morsi's rule. Wearing a flowing veil that

come. Initially, the Egyptian press suggested that Mahmoud was held with her husband in undisclosed location along with one of her children.

Demonstrators at Nasr City cheered her arrival to the makeshift stage. She did not say where she had been since the coup. Morsi is held with his top aides, a number of whom have been transferred over the past days to a prison in southern Cairo. They face charges including instigating violence in various incidents that led to deadly street violence over one-year-rule of Morsi. Morsi's children also have joined the Nasr City protest camp and called for release of their father.

The protest camp is the site of one of two sit-ins by Morsi's Muslim Brotherhood group and its allies. Protesters demand Morsi's reinstatement, restoration of the suspended constitution drafted under Morsi and the return of Morsi's Islamist-dominated legislative council which was also disbanded.

Egypt's interim leaders and the military say they'll stick with a fast-track transition plan that calls for elections by early next year.

Critics believe that the Brotherhood— one of the country's oldest religious and political groups — is

rejecting any meditation with the new government to spark a possibly bloody confrontation with the security forces. The Brotherhood publicly says the government has offered nothing as they don't want to restore Morsi to power. Mohammed Aboul-Ghar, the leader of Egyptian Socialist Democratic party whose members hold key positions in the new government, said that the Brotherhood is holding ground in hopes that a crackdown could win them public sympathy.

"The Muslim Brotherhood are political animals," he said. "They are preparing for a comeback to power through ballot boxes. The way back is through winning support when bloodshed among its ranks turns the public against the Egyptian leadership." Foreign diplomats and Arab foreign ministries have tried to mediate a peaceful resolution between the two sides. However, the recent visit by U.S. Sens. John McCain and Lindsey Graham sparked outrage when they called for the release of "political prisoners" in reference to Brotherhood leaders now charged with instigating violence. The senators also called Morsi's ouster a coup, while Kerry has described the military's move as "restoring democracy." □



Naglaa Mahmoud, left, the wife of Egypt's ousted President Mohammed Morsi addresses thousands of Morsi supporters gathered at a sit-in at Rabaah al-Adawiya mosque in Cairo's Nasr City suburb, Thursday, Aug. 8, 2013.

(AP Photo/Ravy Shaker)

in the face of the military-backed government's warnings that security forces will clear the ongo-

removal from office. He's been held by military authorities since then. Showing up on the first day of the

covered most of her body, Mahmoud spoke to the crowds gathered at a sit-in at Rabaah al-Adawiya mosque in Cairo's Nasr City suburb. She recited a verse from Quran before delivering what she described as "good news," saying Egypt "is Islamic."

"We are victorious," Mahmoud told the crowd, saying protesters would over-

Israel briefly closes airport after rocket warning

MAX J. ROSENTHAL
Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israel briefly prevented landings at an airport in the Red Sea resort of Eilat on Thursday, as Egyptian officials warned of possible rocket attacks coming from its territory on the Sinai Peninsula. The partial closure was in effect for about two hours before being lifted Thursday evening, said a military spokesman, Lt. Col. Peter Lerner. Lerner said the decision to close the Eilat airport was made as a result of a security assessment, but did not elaborate.

Eilat, on Israel's southern tip, is a major destination for

domestic and international tourists. It is close to the Sinai, where Islamic militants and tribesmen engaged in smuggling and other criminal activity have defied Egyptian security forces for years. An Egyptian security official told The Associated Press that the country received intelligence suggesting terrorist groups planned to fire missiles Friday at Israel, as well as at locations in northern Sinai and the Suez Canal. The official said Egypt informed Israel about the risk, sparking the airport closure. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because he wasn't authorized to

speak with journalists. He also said that Egyptian authorities planned to start air patrols Thursday night over the Naqab desert in the Egyptian Sinai, where officials believe the militants are based.

Militants have fired rockets from the Sinai toward Eilat in the past.

Egyptian airports in the Sinai operated normally into Thursday night despite the warning, including those in the resort cities of Sharm el-Sheikh and Taba, said Gad el-Karim Nasr, the head of state-owned Egyptian Airports Co. Taba is only 10 kilometers (six miles) from Eilat. □



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Yemen official says US drones kill 12 in 3 airstrikes



Three U.S. drone strikes killed at least a dozen suspected al-Qaida militants Thursday, Aug. 8, 2013, a Yemeni military official said, the seventh and eighth such attacks in less than two weeks as the Arab nation is on high alert against terrorism.

(AP Photo/Eric Gay)

AHMED AL-HAJ
MAGGIE MICHAEL
Associated Press
SANAA, Yemen (AP) — The U.S. has sharply escalated its drone war in Yemen, with military officials in the Arab country reporting 34 suspected al-Qaida militants killed in less than two weeks, including three strikes on Thursday alone in which a dozen died. The action against al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula, as the Yemen branch is known, comes amid a global terror alert issued by Washington. One Middle East official says the uptick is due to its leaders leaving themselves more vulnerable by moving from their normal hideouts toward areas where they could carry out attacks. The U.S. and Britain evacuated diplomatic staff from the capital of Sanaa this week after learning of a threatened attack that prompted Washington to close temporarily 19 diplo-

matic posts in the Middle East and Africa. Thursday's first reported drone attack hit a car carrying suspected militants in the district of Wadi Ubaidah, about 175 kilometers (109 miles) east of Sanaa, and killed six, a security official said. Badly burned bodies lay beside their vehicle, according to the official. Five of the dead were Yemenis, while the sixth was believed to be of another Arab nationality, he said. The second drone attack killed three alleged militants in the al-Ayoon area of Hadramawt province in the south, the official said. The third, also in Hadramawt province, killed three more suspected militants in the al-Qutn area, he added. All the airstrikes targeted cars, added the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to talk to the media.

The drone strikes have become a near-daily routine since they began July 27. So far, they have been concentrated in remote, mountainous areas where al-Qaida's top five leaders are believed to have taken refuge. But drones also have been seen and heard buzzing for hours over Sanaa, worrying residents who fear getting caught in the crossfire. While the United States acknowledges its drone program in Yemen, it does not talk about individual strikes or release information on

how many are carried out. The program is run by the Pentagon's Joint Special Operations Command and the CIA, with the military flying its drones out of Djibouti, and the CIA out of a base in Saudi Arabia. Pentagon spokesman Army Lt. Col. Todd Breasale declined to comment Thursday and would not confirm the existence of a military drone program in Yemen. The CIA also declined to comment. Since July 27, drone attacks have killed 34 suspected militants, according to an

Associated Press count based on information provided by Yemeni security officials. The terror network's Yemeni offshoot bolstered its operations in Yemen more than a decade after key Saudi operatives fled here following a major crackdown in their homeland. The drone strikes and a U.S.-backed offensive that began in June 2012 have driven militants from towns and large swaths of land they had seized a year earlier, during Yemen's political turmoil amid the Arab Spring. □

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Rebel groups claim Assad targeted in mortar attack

Continued from Front

Last summer, four of his top officials were killed in a rebel bombing, and shells have periodically landed close to some of his many residences, but Assad is not known to have come under fire. If the rebels did manage to target and hit a moving motorcade, it would signal an unusual tactical feat or perhaps new weapons more precise than the usual rockets and mortars, as well as good intelligence.

Al Arabiya, a news broadcaster based in Dubai, quoted one rebel group, Tahrir al-Sham Brigade, a unit of the Free Syrian Army, as saying in a statement: "After conducting reconnaissance on the timing and course of Bashar al-Assad's motorcade the area was hit with artillery. We pray to God and await the field report about the results."

Al Arabiya also quoted Islam Alloush, a rebel with another group, the Liwa al-Islam Brigade, as saying fighters had fired rockets at Assad's motorcade near the Dedeman Damascus Hotel.

"Assad was not hit, but the information we have based from sources within the regime is that there were casualties within his

entourage," the statement said.

There was little clarity about the rebel claims. Syrian state television showed Assad next to Syria's grand mufti, Ahmad Badr Eddin Hassoun, standing and praying in a row of men in suits. It was unclear whether the footage was new.

Al-Zoubi said Assad had driven himself to the mosque as usual, adding that Al Arabiya should fire "the administrative staff that supervised this false news."

In a possible sign of greater support for the rebels from an Arab country, Jordan on Thursday allowed the leader of Syria's main opposition group to cross into Syria from Jordanian territory for the first time, news agencies reported.

Ahmad al-Jarba, the new president of the group, the National Coalition for Syrian Revolutionary and Opposition Forces, crossed into Daraa prov-

ince, a contested border area, to attend Eid prayers at a mosque. Jordan has backed units of the rebel Free Syrian Army operating in Daraa, but al-Jarba's visit, which probably required approval from Jordanian

authorities, was seen by Syrian opposition figures as reflecting a shift in Amman toward more public support for Assad's opponents. The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, an opposition group based in Britain,

reported that two mortar shells had fallen in the Kafar Souseh neighborhood, on the outskirts of Damascus, and that another had fallen in Assad's neighborhood, Malki. No casualties were reported, it said. □



President Bashar Assad, alongside Syria's grand mufti, prays at the start of Eid al-Fitr, the three-day holiday that ends the holy month of Ramadan at the Anas bin Malik Mosque, Damascus, Syria, Thursday Aug. 8, 2013.

(AP Photo/SANA)

Mexican left proposes weakening oil union power

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Mexico's main leftist party said Thursday it is willing to cut back on the enormous power that the country's oil workers' union wields in the state-run oil company, Pemex.

Production has been drop-

ping steadily at Pemex, corruption is rampant within the company and President Enrique Pena Nieto is expected to present a proposal next week to open up the oil company to greater private-sector participation.

While Pena Nieto has not announced details of the plan, the fact that the union is an ally of the ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party makes it less likely the reform proposal will hit the union hard.

The leftist Democratic Revolutionary Party has opposed any attempt to reform Mexico's constitution to allow concessions, risk contracts or private investment in the oil industry. But Democratic Revolution leader Jesus Zambrano said his party is willing to change some things, like the five seats the union holds on the company's

board of directors. That is about one-third of the board; government and company officials occupy the rest.

Zambrano said some union members might be allowed to say on the board, but not vote. He also called for investigations of how some union leaders have amassed impressive fortunes. The union has been implicated in alleged misuse of company funds, and making illegal donations to the ruling party.

Union boss Carlos Romero Deschamps serves as a senator from Pena Nieto's party. □



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AP NewsBreak: Philippines, US to open troop talks

JIM GOMEZ

Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — Philippine officials say they will soon begin negotiations with the United States on a larger American military presence to help deter what they say is increasing Chinese aggression in Philippine-claimed waters in the South China Sea.

In a letter to Philippine congressional leaders, the secretaries of national defense and foreign affairs said that allowing American troops to have an "increased rotational presence" will help the country attain a "minimum credible defense" to guard its territory while it struggles to modernize its own military, one of Asia's weakest.

A larger American presence would also mean more resources and training for responding to disasters in a nation often battered by typhoons and earthquakes, Defense Secretary Voltaire Gazmin and Foreign Secretary Albert del Rosario said in their letter, a copy of which was obtained by The Associated Press on Thursday.

"The Philippines will shortly enter into consultations and negotiations with the United States on a possible framework agreement that would implement our agreed policy of increased rotational presence," Gazmin and del Rosario said.

U.S. officials were not immediately available for

comment.

The presence of foreign troops is a sensitive issue in the Philippines, a former American colony.

The Philippine Senate voted in 1991 to close down major American bases at Subic and Clark, near Manila.

The Philippine Constitution forbids foreign troops from being permanently based in the country, but the Sen-

Washington's intention to pivot away from years of heavy military engagement in the Middle East to Asia, where it has been fostering closer economic and military alliances with countries such as the Philippines, partly as a counterweight to China's rising clout.

The realignment of American forces in the Asia-Pacific also involves the



Philippine marines storm the beach with their counterparts from the U.S. Marines in San Antonio, Zambales province northwest of Manila, Philippines.

(AP Photo/Bullit Marquez)

ate ratified a 1999 pact with the United States that allows temporary visits by American forces.

Several of China's neighbors have been alarmed by Beijing's recent assertiveness in claiming large areas of the South China Sea.

Manila's desire to bolster its external defense and security has dovetailed with

deployment of up to 2,500 U.S. Marines in northern Australia and the stationing of U.S. combat vessels in Singapore.

Gazmin has said that additional American troops would only be allowed to have access to the country's existing military bases under terms the Philippines would negotiate with the U.S. government. □

Ecuadorian soldier slain in firefight with Colombians

DIEGO TORRES

Associated Press

QUITO, Ecuador (AP) — A Colombian illegal armed group killed an Ecuadorian army lieutenant and wounded a corporal early Thursday in a two-hour firefight spanning a river between the two countries, Ecuador's armed forces chief said.

Gen. Leonardo Barreiro did not identify the group. But a Colombian army division commander across the border said they were members of the 48th Front of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or FARC.

Colombian rebels regularly cross the border into Ecuador to flee pursuing troops and have occasionally clashed with Ecuadorian troops. But this was the first known instance of an Ecuadorean soldier being killed by a Colombian irregular.

Barreiro said five of the Colombian irregulars were killed, but the military did not present any corpses. He told reporters in Quito that fighting broke out when Ecuadorean soldiers surrounded the Colombians and called on them to surrender on the banks of the San Miguel river, which marks Ecuador's northern border with a coca-producing region of Colombia.

"But they were received with bullets," Barreiro said. "Simultaneously, another group of illegals, posted on

the Colombian side of the San Miguel river, attacked our troops for two hours with rifle-launched grenades and sharpshooters." Barreiro said about 60 elite government soldiers took part in the operation, backed by two helicopters. Gen. German Giraldo, commander of the Colombian army division based across the border in Putumayo state, said the Ecuadoreans battled the FARC's 48th Front.

FARC rebels easily blend into the civilian population of Ecuador's Sucumbios state, where the combat occurred in the town of Puerto Mestanza.

It has long been home to the Western Hemisphere's largest concentration of refugees and has also provided refuge for Colombian rebels.

Ecuadorean Foreign Minister Ricardo Patino asked Colombia to step up its border security "because these acts indicate they are insufficient."

"We need a greater presence and care by Colombia's government on its border so there are no more incursions by irregular forces on our territory," he said at a joint news conference with Barreiro.

In March 2008, Colombian security forces crossed into the same region of Ecuador and killed a top FARC commander, Raul Reyes, in one of several jungle camps that the rebels operated just across the border. □

Advocates push for Bermuda marine reserve

DAVID MCFADDEN

Associated Press

KINGSTON, Jamaica (AP) — Officials from the Pew Charitable Trusts and one of famed underwater explorer Jacques Cousteau's grandsons were in Bermuda on Thursday calling for the creation of the Atlantic's biggest marine reserve.

The ambitious "Blue Halo" plan would create a vast reserve in ecologically-rich waters between the tiny mid-Atlantic territory's coastal fishing areas, and its 200-mile (322-kilometer) exclusive economic zone boundary.

Advocates say it would safeguard significant parts of the Sargasso Sea, a 2-million-square-mile (3-million-square-kilometer) warm water body in the North Atlantic that is a major habitat and nursery for numerous marine species. It would potentially start 50 miles (80 kilometers) from Bermuda's shore and ring the territory, ensuring that anglers could still fish offshore.

Bermuda is the only island within the Sargasso Sea, known for its mats of brownish Sargassum seaweed and as the spawning place for European and American eels.

Philippe Cousteau, an ocean campaigner who is frequently seen discussing marine issues on U.S. television, said the Blue Halo reserve would impact few Bermuda fishermen, since most don't venture beyond 25 miles (40 kilometers) from shore. If anything, he says, it would improve catches since research has indicated that fishermen

eventually haul in bigger catches when a nearby marine reserve provides a safe haven for fish to grow. Cousteau believes the plan would boost tourism, Bermuda's top economic drivers along with offshore financial services.

"I think it's something that Bermuda can really turn into a gem," Cousteau said during a Thursday phone interview from Bermuda,

lic consultation on the idea might begin.

Thursday calls and an email to Bermuda's Ministry of Environment & Planning went unanswered.

But Matt Rand, director of Pew Charitable Trusts' Global Ocean Legacy Campaign, said "there has been strong community support for the Blue Halo during the many meetings and outreach efforts that

expand on less-restrictive marine protected areas have gradually become a growing trend, with U.S. states and nations across the world barring fishing boats from areas.

Commercial and sport fishing interests have criticized some of these marine reserves, especially on the open sea, as unnecessarily restrictive and badly planned. The Billfish



Environmentalist Philippe Cousteau and his fiancée, entertainment journalist Ashlan Gorse, dive in the waters off Bermuda island, Wednesday, Aug. 7, 2013. Officials from The Pew Charitable Trusts and Philippe Cousteau, one of underwater explorer Jacques Cousteau's grandsons, are urging Bermuda to create the Atlantic's biggest marine reserve. The "Blue Halo" plan would safeguard parts of the Sargasso Sea, a major habitat for species including sharks and eels.

(AP Photo/Chris Burville)

where he and Pew officials were meeting with various officials, fishermen and others. The previous government had asked Pew for help in coming up with a strategy to create a marine reserve. But the administration of Premier Craig Cannonier, who led his party to power in December elections, has been largely mum about the proposal and it's unclear when pub-

Pew staff has been engaged in."

International scientists have called for at least 10 percent of the ocean to be placed in reserves in order to help provide a buffer from the impacts of overfishing, increasing acidification, coral bleaching and pollution. It's at less than 1 percent now, according to Pew.

But no-take reserves that

Foundation, a Fort Lauderdale, Florida-based anglers group, has been critical of the Blue Halo initiative.

"Shutting out anglers could spell a tremendous loss for the Bermudian economy and most critically, a loss of fishing opportunities for a community of anglers that strongly depend on Bermuda's marine resources," the group said in a statement last year. □

UN: Colombia coca crop down by 25 percent

VIVIAN SEQUERA

Associated Press

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP) — Colombia reduced its area under coca cultivation by 25 percent last year, the United Nations said Thursday, meaning Peru has likely surpassed it as the world's No. 1 cocaine-producing-country. The annual reduction was Colombia's biggest since the international body began monitoring it in 2001. The U.N. Office of Drugs and Crime is not slated to release 2012 Peru coca crop numbers until next month.

Earlier this week, it announced that Bolivia's crop, the world's third-largest, dropped for a second straight year.

The UNODC said the Colombian coca crop fell to 185 square miles (48,000 hectares) last year from 247 square miles (64,000 hectares) in 2011. It placed Peru's crop at 240 square miles (62,500 hectares) in 2011.

Peru says it destroyed 54 square miles (14,000 hectares) of coca last year, all manually. That compares to 505 square miles (131,000 hectares) eradicated in Colombia, most via U.S.-funded aerial spraying.

Neither UNODC officials in Peru's nor the country's drug czar, Carmen Masias, would comment on whether Peru has passed Colombia.

Former Peruvian drug czar Ricardo Soberon said there is little doubt that Peru's crop is now bigger, although he has little faith in either the U.N. or the U.S. measuring methods.

"There is more area (under cultivation), and more unrefined cocaine," he said. Much of it is being smuggled eastward via small plane to Bolivia for final processing, he said.

That cocaine almost exclusively serves the Brazilian, Argentine and European markets while Colombian cocaine is primarily shipped to the United States. □

Dominican police suspects in \$1.5M theft from sect

SANTO DOMINGO, Dominican Republic (AP) — Police officers who took part in a deadly shootout and raid at the compound of a sect led by a German man in a Dominican resort town are suspected of taking cash and property during the operation, officials said Thursday.

About \$1.5 million in cash, jewelry and other property

is missing from the compound in Sosua where Peter Brunck presided over the "Academy for Future Health," Dominican Attorney General Francisco Dominquez Brito said.

An investigation was focused on 14 police officers who took part in the October 2012 raid in which a member of the sect was shot to death by police

and authorities seized rifles, grenades, crossbows and body armor.

Brunck, 61, from Meisenheim, Germany, was arrested on weapons charges along with his son and a woman who lived at the compound. All are in custody.

Newspaper Listin Diario reported that officers involved in the raid have

admitted that several safes were found at the compound and that they distributed items and cash seized from the house. Officials declined Thursday to confirm the report.

The national police said in a statement that they had disciplined three high-ranking officers who presided over the raid and suspended the 14 officers. □



Prize festival with a dinner for two at Madame Janette

ORANJESTAD - Together with our national Telecom firm Setar a fundraising event has been organized benefitting the Aruban Donkey Sanctuary. Because of lack of space a new and larger sanctuary needs to be built to accommodate the ever-growing number of donkeys, now almost 140. At this time the donkeys find their homes at various locations, even in a private garden. A lot of money is needed to bring all the donkeys together in one location at Bringamosa. The Dutch foundation Dierenlot's substantial donation has been enough for the start of building the first necessities such as the containers for fodder, water containers, storage and fences. But a lot more money is needed for stables, a shop and a visitor center. The Aruban government and the trade and industry are aware of the importance of a donkey sanctuary. Letting the donkeys roam wild is not an option because they create dangerous situations for our traffic and for themselves. The Aruban Donkey Sanctuary has become a great tourist attraction; visitors come to the sanctuary in droves, on their own or via tour operators such as the Palm Tours. The fundraising event is very simple: if you are a Setar client you can sms the word BURICO (Papiamentu for donkey)

to number 250. The price of such an sms is AWG. 3,-- and the total amount will go to the donkeys. With this sms you are in the running to win spectacular prizes and every week there are new prizes to be won. The event will run until October 4, Animal Day. And of course, the more sms-es you send, the more chances to win one of the weekly prizes. During the second week of the fundraising action participants can win a delicious Dinner for Two at popular Madame Janette restaurant. In a tropical, romantic atmosphere one can enjoy gastronomically beneath the twinkling lights of thousands of mini lights. The dishes, made with love by a team of top chefs, taste even better that way. 'You have to eat there at least once', they say on Aruba, so this is your chance. Through a simple sms you can be the winner of this tasty prize of the week. Pamper yourself and let the staff of Madame Janette surprise you: they are not only excellent in the kitchen, but they can mix a mean cocktail as well! So please start sms-ing the word BURICO to number 250 and you may win, while supporting the Aruban Donkey Foundation. The more times you sms, the more chances you have to win and support one of the very nice attractions on the island.

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At Surfside Beach, next to the airport, a regatta village will be built to ensure entertainment, music, food and beverage and a spectacular view on the races and on idyllic Barcadera Beach the courses will be set for the kites and

plies for this rowing boat have been sponsored by Kooyman.

The races take place at Surfside Beach and Barcadera Beach (windsurfers, kites). With the invaluable support of other sponsors like Budget Marine, WEB-Aruba, Cafe 080,



on the Aruba waters. The Budget Marine cup is the coveted prize for the winner in the most competitive class. This cup will again be awarded this year and has a value of afl. 1000. For the youngest sailors there will be optimist races and there will be down wind races for kite surfers and wind surfers from Barcadara down to Oranjestad, which will certainly render a spectacular view at the end of the af-

the windsurfers in different categories.

Two regatta volunteers will build a rowing boat on the beach during the regatta weekend as a demonstration that watersports can be enjoyed by everybody. On Sunday, August 11 at around 5 pm the boat will be auctioned at Surfside and the profit of this auction will be donated to SYWA the organization that trains the youngest sailors of Aruba. The sup-

Kooyman, Studio Advisory, Power Systems, ASD, ADC-TRA, this regatta will be a remarkable event. Most participants are already preparing for the races and a number of international competitors have already confirmed their participation in the races. You can pre-register for the races via our contact form or call (+) 297 565-6887. Visit www.aruba-regatta.com or facebook for more information. □



Loyal Visitors honored by ATA at the Paradise Beach Villas



EAGLE BEACH - Recently the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure of honoring a group of loyal and friendly Visitors of Aruba, at the Paradise Beach Villas, as Ambassadors of Goodwill. The symbolic honorary title is presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of ap-

preciation to guests who visit Aruba for 20-or-more consecutive years. The honorees are James and Penelope Pritsiolas of Manhasset, New York, Fred Noemer of Florida, who is a Board Member of the Resort, Eduardo Ferrer of Maracaibo, Venezuela, who is a shareholder of the

Resort, and Dennis Hullmann and his family Karen Kochan and Jonathan and Stephanie Hullmann of Poitstown, Pennsylvania. The honorees are loyal members of the Paradise Beach Villas and they love Aruba very much because of the friendly people, the climate, beaches, restau-

rants, and being on Aruba and staying at the Paradise is like being home for them.

The certificates were presented by Ernest Giel representing the Aruba Tourism Authority, together with Milca Erasmus and Freddy Albertus representing the Paradise Beach Villas. Congratulations, and many happy returns! □



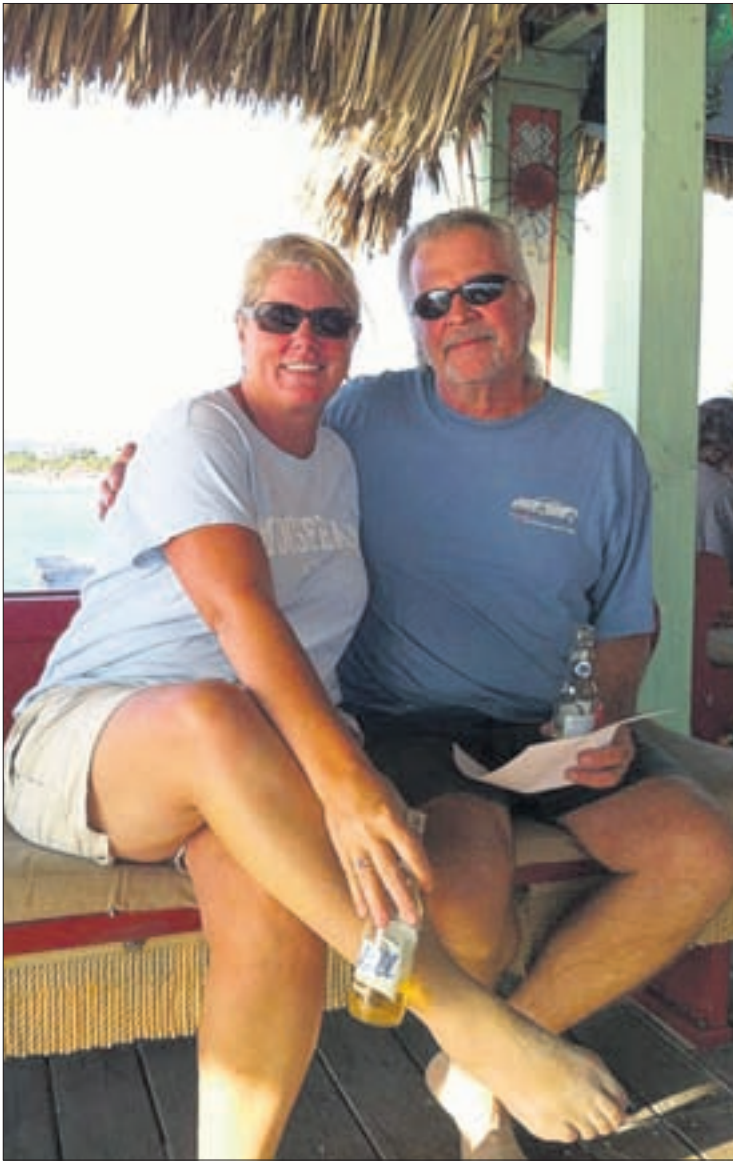
Beauty On The Beach

Alyssa Jones

She is from Toronto, Canada. It's her second time in Aruba, staying with her family at Renaissance Ocean tower. She loves Aruba's beaches, shopping and food.

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PALM BEACH- Bugaloe welcomes back Carl and Betsy Quist from Woodbridge CT. They have been coming to Aruba for 10 years and are staying in the Westin Resort. Carl and Betsy have become real friends with the Bugaloe crew true the years and the crew is always happy with the specially made beef jerky's that they bring every vacation. What they like best about Bugaloe is that they have made lifelong friends at the bar while enjoying the great tmosphere and fabulous views. Their favorite menu item is the fries but they spend more time at the bar having some cold Balashi Chills or Grey Goose Vodka. They think of Aruba as a paradise with wonderful people. Their funniest memory of Bugaloe is a little difficult for them because they keep forgetting what exactly happened the day before! The Bugaloe Crew would like to thank Carl and Betsy for being loyal Bugaloe guests and hope to make some memories that will last forever. □



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Scott, Furyk tied for lead at Oak Hill

DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

PITTSFORD, New York (AP)

— With every major, Adam Scott is making a convincing case that he isn't satisfied with just a green jacket.

Scott ran off five straight birdies early in his round at a soft and vulnerable Oak Hill, and finished with a 15-foot par for a 5-under 65 that gave him a share of the lead Thursday with Jim Furyk in the PGA Championship.

Scott finally became a major champion at Augusta National in April when he won a playoff at the Masters. Just three weeks ago, he had the lead on the back nine at Muirfield in the British Open until he made four bogeys to fall back. In the last major of the year, Scott at times looked unstoppable.

His five straight birdies quickly put him atop the leaderboard with Furyk, and after a 71-minute delay when storms moved into the area, Scott added a sixth birdie on the par-3 15th to reach 6 under. He was on pace to tie the major championship record at Oak Hill until a three-putt bogey on the 16th.

"Just got on a bit of a roll and hit a few shots close,"



Jim Furyk reacts after missing a putt on the ninth hole during the first round of the PGA Championship golf tournament at Oak Hill Country Club, Thursday, Aug. 8, 2013, in Pittsford, N.Y.

Associated Press

Scott said. "I didn't have too much putting to do. You've got to take advantage when it happens, because it doesn't happen too much in the majors. Nothing to complain about in 65."

There were hardly any complaints on Oak Hill, a course that has yielded only 10 72-hole scores under par in five previous majors. It's only Thursday, and the players felt as if they got off easy.

Rain overnight and humid conditions kept the course soft, and birdies were dropping at an alarming pace. Except for Tiger Woods.

The world's No. 1 player made only two birdies despite playing in the still of the morning, and he watched his round fall apart with a bogey on par-5 fourth and a double bogey on his final hole when his flop shot out of a deep rough floated into a bunker. Woods had a 71, not a bad start at Oak Hill, except on this day.

There were 35 rounds under par, compared with only a dozen rounds in the 60s when the PGA Championship was here 10 years ago.

Continued on page 20



United States Damaris Beasley (7), center, holds the trophy as he celebrates with teammates after defeating Panama 1-0 during the CONCACAF Gold Cup final soccer match at Soldier Field on Sunday, July 28, 2013, in Chicago.

Associated Press

U.S. returns to FIFA top 20 after 2-year absence

ZURICH (AP) — The United States is rewarded for winning the Gold Cup last month by reaching its highest place in the FIFA rankings for more than two years. The U.S. rose three places in the rankings released Thursday to No. 19, where it also placed in March 2011.

The Americans replace No. 20 Mexico as CONCACAF's highest placed team for the first time since 2011. With European teams inactive last month, Spain leads an unchanged top 10. Germany is second and Colombia is No. 3. Confederations Cup winner

Brazil remains at No. 9. Ivory Coast is still Africa's highest-ranked team though it drops five places to No. 18. Japan leads Asian nations at No. 37. Panama, which beat Mexico in a Gold Cup semifinal, rises 11 places to No. 40. □

NL Capsules

Martin pinch-single in 10th, Pirates beat Marlins

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Russell Martin's pinch-hit single with two outs in the 10th inning lifted the Pittsburgh Pirates over the Miami Marlins 5-4 Thursday for their fifth straight win.

Martin delivered his fourth game-ending hit at PNC Park this year for the NL Central leaders.

The Pirates swept the three-game series and improved to 70-44, the best record in the majors. Miami lost its fifth in a row.

Josh Harrison opened the 10th with a single off Steve Ames (0-1) and took second on Clint Barmes' sacrifice bunt. After Jose Tabata bounced out and Starling Marte was intentionally walked, Martin batted for Jared Hughes (2-2) and grounded a single down the left-field line.

Neil Walker had three hits and two RBIs for Pittsburgh. Marte had two hits.

Marlins rookie Christian Yelich had three hits, including his first major league homer.

GIANTS 4, BREWERS 1

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Tim Lincecum pitched another gem, allowing only

one hit over eight shutout innings and leading the Giants past the Brewers.

Lincecum, who threw his first career no-hitter on July 13 at San Diego, permitted just a double to Juan Francisco leading off the third inning.

Lincecum (6-11) struck out eight and walked one in eight innings before getting pulled for a pinch-hitter. The two-time NL Cy Young Award winner had been 0-2 in three starts since throwing 148 pitches in his no-hitter.

Brandon Belt hit a three-run homer in the first inning off Donovan Hand (0-4). Marco Scutaro and Brandon Crawford each added three hits.

PHILLIES 12, CUBS 1

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Ethan Martin earned his first major league win, Cody Asche hit his first home run and the Phillies routed the Cubs.

Asche's two-run drive capped a six-run burst in the fourth inning that made it 10-1. He had three hits and fellow rookie Darin Ruf also homered.

Martin (1-1) got more



Pittsburgh Pirates pinch-hitter Russell Martin swings on a base hit to drive in Josh Harrison in the 10th inning of the baseball game against the Miami Marlins on Thursday, Aug. 8, 2013, in Pittsburgh. The Pirates won 5-4 in 10 innings
Associated Press

than enough support. He pitched five innings and allowed one run and four hits, striking out four and walking three. Nat Schierholz homered in the fourth. Chase Utley delivered an RBI double on the day the Phillies announced a new contract with the star second baseman that goes through the 2015 season. Jeff Samardzija (6-11) was chased in the fourth inning.

The game was delayed by rain for 22 minutes in the seventh inning.

METS 2, ROCKIES 1

NEW YORK (AP) — Dillon Gee followed Matt Harvey's first career shutout with an impressive outing of his own, helping the Mets beat Colorado and sending the Rockies home after matching the worst road trip in team history.

Gee (8-8) scattered eight

hits without yielding a walk in 7 2-3 innings to win for the first time since July 14. He allowed Corey Dickerson's homer leading off the fourth inning. Rookie Wilmer Flores had an RBI groundout and Anthony Recker a sacrifice fly off spot starter Jeff Manship as the Mets completed their first three-game sweep over the Rockies since 2008 at Shea Stadium. □



Baltimore Orioles' Chris Davis, front right, and San Diego Padres catcher Rene Rivera watch Davis' three-run home run in the eighth inning of a baseball game in San Diego, Wednesday, Aug. 7, 2013. The home run broke up a tie game.

Associated Press

PHOENIX (AP) — Martin Prado hit a two-run single in the eighth inning and also had a two-run homer, helping the Diamondbacks rally for a victory over the Rays.

Arizona trailed 3-0 in the first inning, went up 7-4 by the fifth and was down a run after Tampa Bay's four-run seventh.

The Diamondbacks loaded the bases against Joel Peralta (1-5) and Fernando Rodney, setting up Prado's two-run liner to center to cap a wild game that featured 28 combined hits and 12 pitchers.

J.J. Putz (3-1) pitched a scoreless eighth inning and Brad Ziegler worked

around two baserunners in the ninth for his seventh save to complete the two-game sweep.

Prado had four RBIs and four of Arizona's 12 hits.

REDS 6, ATHLETICS 5

CINCINNATI (AP) — Jay Bruce hit a two-run homer and threw out a runner at the plate, helping the Reds get the win.

Corky Miller added two run-scoring doubles for Cincinnati, which won consecutive games for the first time since July 24 in San Francisco and July 25 in Los Angeles. Bruce also had a run-scoring grounder in the first.

Oakland scored as many runs as it had in its previous three games, but still

lost for the sixth time in seven games.

A's right-hander Bartolo Colon (14-4) allowed five runs and seven hits in 2 2-3 innings in his shortest outing of the season.

Homer Bailey (7-10) won his second straight start despite allowing nine hits and five runs in 5 1-3 innings. Aroldis Chapman tossed a perfect ninth for his 27th save.

ORIOLES 10, PADRES 3

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Chris Davis hit his major league-best 41st homer in Baltimore's four-run eighth inning.

Davis belted a tiebreaking three-run shot into the bleachers in right-center on the first pitch from

Colt Hynes. Brian Roberts tacked on a sacrifice fly, and the Orioles then broke it open with three more runs in the ninth.

Luke Gregerson (5-6) allowed singles to Manny Machado and Adam Jones before Davis went deep, giving him a majors-best 106 RBIs.

Jedd Gyorko hit a tying three-run homer in the sixth for San Diego, which has dropped three of four. The Orioles' scoring outburst handed a win to Francisco Rodriguez (1-0), who struck out two in a perfect seventh inning.

In Interleague play it was Baltimore 10, San Diego 3; Cincinnati 6, Oakland 5, Arizona 9, Tampa Bay 8. □

INTERLEAGUE PLAY

Diamondbacks rally for wild 9-8 win over Rays

AL Capsules

Tigers outlast Indians 6-5 in 14 innings

The Associated Press
CLEVELAND (AP) — Prince Fielder hit a two-run double in the 14th inning as the Detroit Tigers won their 11th straight, 6-5 on Wednesday night over the Cleveland Indians, who fell six games out of first place in the AL Central and maybe left rookie Danny Salazar in for one too many pitches. After the Tigers put two on against Bryan Shaw (2-3), Fielder lined his double off Marc Rzepczynski into the gap as the Tigers beat the Indians for the 11th time in 12 games and improved to 12-3 against their nearest division rival.

Jeremy Bonderman (2-3) pitched three innings in his first appearance for the Tigers since Oct. 1, 2010. Joaquin Benoit gave up a two-out RBI double to Michael Bourn and wild pitch before striking out Drew Stubbs with the tying run at third for his 14th save. WHITE SOX 6, YANKEES 5, 12 innings.

CHICAGO (AP) — Alejandro De Aza's game-winning triple with two outs rallied the Chicago White Sox to a 6-5 win over the New York Yankees, hours after New York's Alex Rodriguez appealed his suspension. Rodriguez officially dug in



Detroit Tigers' Prince Fielder watches his two-run double off Cleveland Indians relief pitcher Marc Rzepczynski in the 14th inning of a baseball game Wednesday, Aug. 7, 2013, in Cleveland.

Associated Press

for his fight two days after being hit with a 211-game punishment following MLB's investigation into Biogenesis of America,

a defunct Florida anti-aging clinic accused of distributing banned performance-enhancing drugs.

Then, the Yankees fell for the 14th time in 20 games after Mariano Rivera blew the lead in the ninth and Robinson Cano hit a go-ahead homer in the 12th. The White Sox rallied with two out in the bottom half against Adam Warren (1-2).

Tyler Flowers singled off the pitcher's glove and moved to third on a single by Alexei Ramirez. De Aza followed with a two-run shot to right-center, giving the White Sox their third straight win after a 10-game losing streak.

RED SOX 7, ASTROS 5
HOUSTON (AP) — Stephen Drew hit a three-run homer in the top of the ninth to rally the Red Sox to a victory over the Astros.

David Ortiz had four hits and Jonny Gomes also hit a home run for the Red Sox, who have won seven of their last nine games.

Robbie Grossman had two hits, including a homer, and Jason Castro added two hits for the Astros, who have dropped six of seven and are a major league-worst 37-76.

Ortiz led off the ninth with a single and moved to second on Gomes' one-out walk before Drew's home run to right, his ninth of the season, off Josh Fields (1-2). Junichi Tazawa (5-3) threw

two scoreless innings for the win.

MARINERS 9, BLUE JAYS 7
SEATTLE (AP) — Humberto Quintero's two-run homer highlighted a six-run fifth inning, and the Mariners rallied for a victory over Toronto to spoil the return of Blue Jays left-hander J.A. Happ.

Happ made his first start since May 7, when he suffered a skull fracture and a sprained right knee after being struck behind the left ear by a line drive from Tampa Bay's Desmond Jennings. Happ left the field on a stretcher, spent the night in the hospital and had three months of rehabilitation, primarily for the knee.

Presented with a 7-2 lead by the third inning, Happ couldn't deny the fifth-inning rally, leaving with the bases loaded and no outs. Brandon Maurer (3-7), who allowed eight baserunners and no runs in 3 1-3 innings, earned the win.

ROYALS 5, TWINS 2
KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — The Kansas City bullpen picked up starter Danny Duffy when he labored in his return from Tommy John surgery, keeping the Twins guessing and sending the Royals to a victory and series win. □

Oak Hill

Continued from page 18

"The round realistically could have been under par easily," Woods said. Furyk, who won his lone major at the U.S. Open in 2003 at Olympia Fields, has gone nearly three years since his last win at the Tour Championship to capture the FedEx Cup and win PGA Tour player of the year. Still fresh are the four close calls from a year ago, including the U.S. Open.

He was as steady as Scott, rarely putting himself in trouble until the end of the round. Furyk missed the fairway to the right

and had to pitch out because of thick rough and trees blocking his way to the green. That led to his only bogey, but still his lowest first-round score in 19 appearances at the PGA Championship.

"Usually disappointed with ending the day on a bogey," Furyk said. "But you know, 65, PGA, is not so bad."

David Hearn of Canada, an alternate until a week ago, had a 66 in the morning. Also at 66 was Lee Westwood, who had his best score ever in the PGA and offered evidence that there was no hang-over from losing a 54-hole lead in the British Open last month.



Adam Scott, of Australia, waves after making a birdie on the sixth hole during the first round of the PGA Championship golf tournament at Oak Hill Country Club, Thursday, Aug. 8, 2013, in Pittsford, N.Y.

Associated Press

There were no record scores at Oak Hill despite the soft conditions, just a lot of low rounds.

Even Rory McIlroy got in on the act. The defending champion, at the end of a major season that has been a major disappointment, came out firing with three birdies on the opening four holes and made the turn in 32 until back-to-back bogeys. He wound up with a 69.

A resurgent Paul Casey was in the group at 67, while U.S. Open champion Justin Rose, British Open runner-up Henrik Stenson and the ageless Miguel Angel Jimenez were among 11 players at 68. □

Serena Williams advances to Rogers Cup quarterfinals

TORONTO (AP) — Top-seeded Serena Williams advanced to the Rogers Cup quarterfinals Thursday, beating 13th-seeded Kirsten Flipkens of Belgium 6-0, 6-3.

Williams, coming off a tournament victory 2½ weeks ago in the Swedish Open, set up a match Friday against Slovakia's Magdalena Rybarikova.

"She wasn't able to play her game as much as she wanted to," Williams said. "When you play such a high-ranked player, you have to go in there with the mindset of do the best you can before they can step all over you."

Wimbledon champion Marion Bartoli retired because of an abdominal injury early in the second

set of her match against Rybarikova.

"Kind of excess of tiredness and exhaustion on my body," Bartoli said. "The

pain is so large and we can't really say right now exactly (if) there is a tear at some point or if it's just like a huge tightness."



Serena Williams, of the United States, serves the ball against Kirsten Flipkens, of Belgium, during the third round women's Rogers Cup tennis tournament in Toronto on Thursday, Aug. 8, 2013. Associated Press

Rybarikova led 7-6 (5), 1-0 when the seventh-seeded Bartoli stopped playing. Playing her first event since returning from a hamstring injury that sidelined her since Wimbledon, Bartoli was in obvious discomfort as she walked to the court-side chairs for treatment. "Obviously it took me so much energy to win my first Grand Slam that at some point I will have a kind of low and it's normal," Bartoli

said. "I can't be winning after winning after winning without feeling at some point a kind of exhaustion." The players seeded No. 3-5 also advanced to the quarters. Third-seeded Agnieszka Radwanska beat American Sloane Stephens 6-1, 7-6 (2), No. 4 Li Na of China had a 3-6, 6-1, 7-6 (5) victory over Serbia's Ana Ivanovic and No. 5 Sara Errani of Italy beat Alize Cornet of France 7-5, 7-6 (3). □

Andy Murray eliminated

MONTREAL (AP) — Wimbledon champion Andy Murray tumbled out of the Rogers Cup on Thursday, falling 6-4, 6-3 to Latvia's Ernests Gulbis in the third round.

The second-seeded Murray, a two-time Rogers Cup champion, was playing his second match since his Wimbledon victory. The loss ended the Scot's winning streak at 13 matches.

"I looked on this monitor that I lost to him five times, but honestly I just remember the last match we played in Cincinnati," Gulbis said. "It was a really tough match, but it was in 2010. It was a really long time ago. I was a different person, he was a different player."

Rafael Nadal won his third round match, beating Poland's Jerzy Janowicz 7-6 (6), 6-4.

Nadal, the fourth-seeded Spanish star making his first tournament appearance since losing in the first round at Wimbledon, improved his ATP Tour-leading record to 45-3 — including 7-0 on hardcourts.

"I had a very good victory today against a very difficult opponent," Nadal said about the 6-foot-8 Janowicz. "I did a few things well



Andy Murray, of Britain, buries his head in his cap as he faces Ernests Gulbis, of Latvia, during, at the Rogers Cup men's tennis tournament Thursday, Aug. 8, 2013, in Montreal. Gulbis won 6-4, 6-3. Associated Press

during the match, a few things that I need to improve a little bit more. His serve is huge. His forehand and backhand can be very dangerous.

"When he plays with a little bit of regular shots, he will become a very difficult player to beat. If he is able to maintain the right level during whole match he will be a player that will be in the very top positions."

The Rogers Cup winner in

2005 and 2008, Nadal will face Australia's Marinko Matosevic, a 7-6 (7), 6-7 (10), 6-3 winner over France's Benoit Paire.

Canada's Vasek Pospisil beat fifth-seeded Tomas Berdych of the Czech Republic 7-5, 2-6, 7-6 (5). Pospisil beat an opponent ranked in the top 10 in the world for the first time.

Defending champion Novak Djokovic played later Thursday. □

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AC Milan forward Mbaye Niang prepares to strike the ball for a goal during the first half of the International Champions Cup third-place soccer game against the Los Angeles Galaxy, Wednesday, Aug. 7, 2013, in Miami Gardens, Fla.

TIM REYNOLDS

AP Sports Writer

MIAMI GARDENS, Florida

(AP) — Mario Balotelli and M'baye Niang scored first-

Associated Press

half goals as AC Milan controlled most of the match to beat the Los Angeles Galaxy 2-0 and claim the third-place in the International

AC Milan tops Galaxy for 3rd at Champions Cup

Champions Cup friendly tournament Wednesday. Balotelli scored in the 17th minute and Niang in the 40th, but the Italian club got a scare in the 79th when Balotelli played a ball across the field and went down holding the back of his right leg around the knee area.

The injury was apparently only cramping on a hot South Florida night.

"We played a good match from a technical and effort standpoint," AC Milan coach Massimiliano Allegri said. "We made a few mistakes, but feel satisfied."

AC Milan won two of its three matches in this series of friendlies among eight club teams. The Galaxy, which beat two-time defending Serie A champion Juventus earlier in the tournament, was the only U.S.-based team in the event and lost two of three games.

The inaugural tournament ended later Wednesday night, with Real Madrid vs. Chelsea for the title.

Balotelli's free kick from about 30 meters in the 10th minute curled left off his foot but was saved by Galaxy goalkeeper Carlo

Cudicini. AC Milan didn't wait much longer to break through.

The Galaxy misplayed a clearing pass in the 17th minute, and Andrea Poli played a ball into the box for Balotelli, who was marked by two defenders. He shook free with ease, splitting the pair and his low shot beat Cudicini.

Niang evaded a number of defenders, then feinted clear of L.A.'s Todd Dunivant before nonchalantly sending a low left-footed strike inside the far post.

"A really nice goal," Allegri said. □

IAAF to introduce 4-year sanctions in 2015

RAF CASERT

AP Sports Writer

MOSCOW (AP) — Track

and field's governing body will re-introduce four-year bans for serious drug violations in 2015 and will be pushing the World Anti-Doping Agency to do the same to strengthen the deterrent against cheats, IAAF President Lamine Diack said Thursday.

In a vote by acclamation at the IAAF congress, member federations backed the leaders in seeking tougher WADA sanctions. The International Association of Athletics Federations said it is ready to press ahead on its own if other sports refuse to upgrade the sanction from two years.

The new WADA code goes into effect in 2015. Diack said the IAAF will move to four-year sanctions regardless of what is decided at the Nov. 12-15 World Conference on Doping in Sport in Johannesburg.

"Up to 2015 it will still be two years," Diack said. "From

then on, as far as the IAAF is concerned, it will be four years."

IAAF officials have always stressed they were ready to impose four-year sanctions and only grudgingly adapted to the two-year penalties in 1997. They fear new steps next November will again fall short in effectively deterring athletes.

"If WADA is only following some federations, who have their doubts, we have to take care of our own fate," IAAF Council member Helmut Digel told The Associated Press.

WADA wants a uniform standard across all sports and countries.

Athletics officials fear that the goal of four-year bans will be watered down in negotiations leading up to the Johannesburg meeting, leaving so many exceptions and caveats that it would hardly make a difference from the current system of two years.

"The four-year ban is not a slam dunk," said Abby Hoff-



IAAF president Lamine Diack speaks during a news conference at a hotel in Moscow, Thursday, Aug. 8, 2013. The IAAF World Championships begin Saturday.

Associated Press

man, the IAAF's anti-doping task force coordinator. "We need to be sure that space is carved in in the anti-doping campaign for athletics to impose the ban that we know our athletes and our members want." The issue has gained prominence ahead of the world championships, which start Saturday in Moscow. Several high-profile doping scandals have clouded the preparations for the event.

Doping has hit the sport's premier event, the men's 100 meters, especially hard. U.S. sprinter Tyson Gay had been expected to challenge Jamaica's Usain Bolt for the title after a strong early season but was forced to pull out of the worlds when he failed an out-of-competition test. Almost at the same time, it was announced that former world-record holder Asafa Powell tested positive for the stimulant ox-

ilofrone at the Jamaican national championships in June. Digel said the sport is doing all it can to eradicate doping, even at the expense of a public relations setback.

"Tyson Gay? We are not protecting him," Digel said. "Asafa Powell? We are not protecting him. These are our superstars. We want to help our clean athletes."

On Friday, the International Olympic Committee executive board will announce its choice for the next WADA president. It is the turn of the Olympic movement to select the president, who will replace former Australian minister John Fahey. IOC vice president Craig Reedie of Britain, who sits on the WADA executive committee, is the firm favorite. The other candidates are former two-time Olympic 400-meter hurdles champion Edwin Moses of the United States and former IOC medical director Patrick Schamasch. □



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Group: Apps not effective tool for teaching babies

ANNE FLAHERTY

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Smartphones don't make smart babies, an advocacy group declared in a complaint to the government about mobile apps that claim to help babies learn.

The Campaign for a Commercial-Free Childhood, whose allegations against "Baby Einstein" videos eventually led to consumer refunds, is urging federal regulators to examine the marketing practices of Fisher-Price's "Laugh & Learn" mobile apps and Open Solutions' games, such as "Baby Hear and Read" and "Baby First Puzzle." The Boston-based group said Wednesday that developers are trying to dupe parents into thinking apps are more educational than entertaining. It's the campaign's first complaint to the Federal Trade Commission against the mobile app industry as part of its broader push to hold businesses accountable for marketing claims about their technology to very young children and their parents.

"Everything we know about brain research and child development points away from using screens to educate babies," said Susan Linn, the group's director. "The research shows that machines and screen media are a really ineffective way of teaching a baby language. What babies need for healthy brain development is active play, hands-on creative play and face-to-face" interaction. The American Academy of Pediatrics discourages any electronic "screen time" for infants and toddlers under 2, while older children should be limited to one to two hours a day. It cites one study that found in-

fant videos can delay language development, and warns that no studies have documented a benefit of early viewing.

In a statement provided to The Associated Press, Open Solutions said it agrees that electronics are not a substitute for human interaction. But it noted the many positive reviews its apps have received by customers.

"We also don't say 'get this game and let it teach your child everything,'" wrote the company, based in Bratislava, Slovakia. "We assume (the) child is playing the game with parent/sister/baby sitter. We think we have apps that can help parents with babies, either by entertaining babies or help them see new things, animals, hear their sounds, etc."

Kathleen Alfano, senior director of child research for Fisher-Price, said in a statement that toy development at the East Aurora, New York-based company begins with extensive research by experts in early childhood development "to create appropriate toys for the ways children play, discover and grow."

"Grounded in 80 years of research and childhood development observations, we have appropriately extended these well-researched play patterns into the digital space," Alfano said.

Linn's group alleges that the companies violate truth-in-advertising laws when they claim to "teach" babies skills. For example, Fisher-Price claims that its "Laugh & Learn" "Where's Puppy's Nose?" app can teach a baby about body parts and language, while its "Learning Letters Puppy" app educates babies on the alphabet and counting to 10. Open Solutions

says its mobile apps offer a "new and innovative form of education" by allowing babies to "practice logic and motor skills."

"Given that there's no evidence that (mobile apps are) beneficial, and some evidence that it may actually be harmful, that's concerning," Linn said.

According to the Pew Internet and American Life Project, more than half of American adults own a smartphone while about one-third of adults own a tablet. With the number of mobile devices on the rise, mobile software applications have become lucrative money makers. Even apps that are downloaded for free will often collect personal information from a consumer that can then be sold to marketers.

Most of the Fisher-Price apps, for example, are free but warn in their privacy policies that "third parties" can collect information about a person's device for possible marketing purposes.

Federal law says advertising can't mislead consumers and, in some cases, must be backed by scientific evidence. In 2012, the FTC — which enforces truth-in-advertising laws — agreed with the Campaign for a Commercial-Free Childhood that the developer of "Your Baby Can Read" lied when it promised consumers it could teach babies as young as 9 months to read. That business shuttered after the FTC imposed a \$185 million settlement.

In 2006, the group asked the FTC to prohibit the makers of Baby Einstein and Brainy Baby videos from making claims about educational benefits. The FTC eventually declined to act after the companies, owned by the Walt Disney Co., agreed



This undated framegrab image from the Fisher-Price website shows Fisher-Price Laugh & Learn mobile apps. The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) is alleging that two popular baby app developers, Fisher-Price Inc. and Open Solutions, are trying to dupe parents into thinking their online games make infant and toddlers smarter.

Associated Press



In this Friday, Oct. 21, 2011 file photo, Frankie Thevenot, 3, plays with an iPad in his bedroom at his home in Metairie, La. As of Wednesday, Aug. 7, 2013, the Campaign for a Commercial-Free Childhood, a Boston-based group, is urging federal investigators to examine the marketing practices of Fisher-Price's and Open Solution's mobile apps.

Associated Press

to remove some marketing promises from its packages and took down testimonials that claimed educational benefits. The Campaign for a Commercial-Free Childhood still pressed a group of lawyers to threaten a class-action lawsuit, and Disney began offering cash refunds for videos purchased.

Linn said her organization targeted Fisher-Price and

Open Solutions because their baby apps were among the most popular and because they represented an overall trend of deceptive marketing practices by app developers, both big and small.

Leticia Barr, a former schoolteacher who runs the website Tech Savvy Mama, said apps might be educational but not until a child is much older. □

Surging mining stocks end a slump on Wall Street

MATTHEW CRAFT
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Miners and other companies dealing in commodities helped pull the stock market out of a three-day slump on Thursday.

"The one thing that stands out today is the better news out of China," said David Joy, the chief market strategist at Ameriprise Financial. "It comes as a pleasant surprise." The Standard & Poor's 500

index fell three days straight and remains down 0.7 for the week. It's still up 19 percent this year. Brad McMillan, chief investment officer for Commonwealth Financial Network in Waltham, Massachusetts,

Fed's Dallas branch, reaffirmed his view that it's time to wind down the bank's stimulus effort.

At the same time, companies are warning of slower sales and turning in tepid second-quarter results. McMillan said it's starting to look like corporate earnings haven't kept up with the stock market's strong pace this year.

"I think people are realizing that stock values are getting disconnected from earnings growth," McMillan said.

"For the rally to continue, people will have to pay more for earnings that aren't growing that much." Investors are paying more for profits. A year ago, the price-earnings ratio for the S&P 500 was 13.4, according to the data provider FactSet. Now it's 15.6, which is still near the long-run average.

Among companies reporting earnings, the maker of Oreo cookies, snack giant Mondelez International, turned in better results than Wall Street had expected late Wednesday. The company also announced plans to spend another \$5 billion buying its own stock. Mondelez International gained \$1.44, or 5 percent, to \$32.70.

Tesla Motors jumped 14 percent following news that the maker of electric cars blew past Wall Street's profit forecasts for its most recent quarter. Revenue soared thanks to stronger

sales of its Model S. Tesla gained \$19.25 to \$153.48.

In economic news, the government reported that the average number of people who applied for unemployment benefits over the past four weeks dropped 6,250 to 335,500. That's the lowest level since November 2007, a month before the Great Recession got underway.

Gradual but steady gains for the U.S. economy and corporate profits have lifted the stock market to record territory this year. The S&P 500 index closed at an all-time high of 1,709.67 on Friday.

In other Thursday trading, the better economic news out of China sent copper, widely used for electronics and to wire buildings, up 10 cents, or 3 percent, to \$3.27 a pound. Gold rose \$24.60, or 2 percent, to \$1,309.90 an ounce.

The yield on the 10-year Treasury note fell to 2.58 percent from 2.60 percent late Wednesday.

Among other companies in the news:

— Newmont Mining rose \$2.30, or 9 percent, to \$28.78 and Freeport-McMoRan Copper & Gold rose \$1.37, or 5 percent, to \$30.80. Mining companies rose broadly along with prices for commodities such as copper.

— Groupon jumped \$1.88, or 22 percent, to \$10.60. The company named its co-founder Eric Lefkowsky as CEO late Wednesday and said it plans to buy \$300 million of its own stock over the next two years.

--JPMorgan Chase lost 47 cents, or nearly 1 percent, to \$54.83, after the bank said it's facing a criminal investigation tied to mortgage-backed bonds. □



Traders gather at a post on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. Miners and other companies dealing in commodities helped pull the stock market out of a three-day slump on Thursday.
(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

News that China's trade rebounded last month signaled the end of a six-month slowdown for the world's biggest buyer of raw materials. The report drove prices up for copper and other commodities, and that helped lift Newmont Mining, Freeport-McMoRan and other stocks in the materials industry.

index edged up 6.57 points, or 0.4 percent, to 1,697.48. The Dow Jones industrial average rose 27.65 points, or 0.2 percent, to 15,498.32. The Nasdaq composite gained 15.12 points, or 0.4 percent, to 3,669.12. With little other news to drive trading, the stock market had meandered lower this week. The S&P

said a number of concerns have weighed on the market this week. Comments from Federal Reserve officials have convinced many investors that the bank will begin pulling back its support for the economy in the coming months. In an interview on CNBC after the market closed, Richard Fisher, head of the

Groupon stock soars after 2Q results, new CEO

NEW YORK (AP) — Groupon's stock soared Thursday after the beleaguered online deals company named co-founder Eric Lefkowsky permanent CEO and posted stronger-than-expected revenue for the second quarter.

Groupon Inc. reported a 7 percent increase in quarterly revenue, to \$608.7 million, inching past Wall Street's expectations. It also announced plans to buy back \$300 million of its stock over the next two years, further boosting in-

vestor confidence. Lefkowsky, who is Groupon's largest shareholder, replaces Andrew Mason, who was fired in February amid growing concerns about Groupon's financial and stock performance. Sterne Agee analyst Arvind Bhatia said the Chicago-based company is in a good position to benefit from two e-commerce trends — local and mobile. Groupon said that nearly half of its North American transactions came from mobile devices in June, up

from about 30 percent in June 2012.

Bhatia, who has a "Buy" rating on Groupon's stock, said he thinks that Groupon's addressable market is bigger than most people think and its potential growth rate is "stronger than is commonly believed."

Competition "has eased in recent quarters and it has become increasingly evident that (Groupon's) scale is a real advantage," the analyst wrote in a note to investors.

UBS analyst Eric Sheridan upgraded Groupon's shares to a "Neutral" rating from "Sell" citing the company's mobile commerce prospects. He added that Groupon now has a "deep" and "stable" management team to turn the company around.

Groupon's stock rose \$1.88, or 21.6 percent, to close at \$10.60. The shares have gained 90 percent in the past three months. The company went public at \$20 per share in November 2011. □



China's imports, exports stabilize, rebound in July

KELVIN CHAN
AP Business Writer

HONG KONG (AP) — China's trade rebounded in July in a possible sign that the world's No. 2 economy is stabilizing following a slowdown over the past year. The improvement offers small but encouraging hope for China's leaders, who are struggling to arrest a downturn that dragged growth to a two-decade low in the latest quarter amid weak global demand and efforts to cool a credit boom. China's exports rose 5.1 percent from a year earlier in July while imports leaped 10.9 percent, customs data showed Thursday.

Economists had expected trade to grow after shrinking in June but the rate of growth surpassed expectations. China's politically sensitive global trade surplus narrowed to \$17.8 billion. Economists said the surge in imports suggests that domestic demand is holding up, an important goal for China's policymakers, who are trying to reduce the economy's dependence on trade and investment in favor of more self-sustaining domestic consumption. Imports of iron ore, an important commodity used to make steel, surged 24 percent by volume, while copper imports grew 12 percent, both at the fastest rates in more than a year, said Yao Wei, China economist at Societe Generale.

She said the return to growth for exports was a sign of "some stabilization in external demand, at best — not yet a solid recovery" for the country's massive export industries. Analysts said the figures were a sign of improvement but cautioned about reading too much into a single set of numbers.

"July seems to reflect a return to a normal, relatively uninspiring trend after a weak June, rather than the beginning of acceleration in growth," said Alistair Chan, an economist at Moody's Analytics. "While the worst seems to be over, the upturn will be relatively flat." □

McDonald's sales edge up on better US results

CANDICE CHOI
AP Food Industry Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — McDonald's says a key sales figure edged up modestly in July, as the Dollar Menu and Big Macs in the U.S. helped offset declines in other parts of the world.

The world's biggest hamburger chain says global sales rose 0.7 percent at restaurants open at least 13 months. That included a 1.6 percent increase in the U.S., where it said "everyday value offerings," breakfast offerings and staples such as the Big Mac drove up results.

For July, the sales figure was hurt by a 1.9 percent decline in both Europe and the region encompassing Asia, the Middle East and Africa. CEO Don Thompson has said the company is working on adjusting to local conditions, whether it's by emphasizing deals more

or extending the hours of operation. McDonald's stock was up 1 percent at \$99.47 in premarket trading. McDonald's, based in Oak Brook, Illinois, is trying

has aggressively promoted its Dollar Menu and other deals to bring in customers. Analysts have expressed concern the strategy could eat into profit margins, but

To shake its fast-food image, the company is also offering options people see as healthier or fresher. Some of its newer menu items include chicken wraps and the option to substitute egg whites in breakfast sandwiches.

At the same time, the company is trying to remind people of longtime favorites and has been featuring its Big Mac in TV and online ads. It also recently expanded its lineup of Quarter Pounders, saying it wanted to capitalize on the popularity of the burger. Still, the company had warned last month that it expected sales to be relatively flat in July and that the rest of the year would be challenging. McDonald's has attributed its struggle to drive up sales to intensifying competition and weak economic conditions around the world. □



McDonald's signs sprout from the restaurant's parking lot in New York. McDonald's says a key sales figure edged up modestly in July, 2013, as the Dollar Menu and Big Macs in the U.S. helped offset declines in other parts of the world.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

to juggle a variety of challenges. With people being careful about their spending, the fast-food chain

executives say the sacrifice is necessary to keep customers loyal and grow over the long term.

Nestle cautions on challenge of slowing sales

JOHN HEILPRIN
Associated Press

GENEVA (AP) — Swiss food and drinks giant Nestle SA posted a 3.7 percent rise in first-half profits Thursday, but warned it would not be easy sticking to its sales targets as it tackles slowing markets around the world and "value-conscious" consumers.

Investors sent shares down 2.2 percent to 63.30 Swiss francs Thursday, after Nestle released its first-half statement showing that underlying sales growth was at its lowest in four years.

Based in Vevey, Switzerland, Nestle is the world's biggest food and drink company by revenue and the maker of dozens of household name brands such as Nescafe, Haagen Dazs, Jenny Craig and Kit-Kat. It also is a major buyer of food commodities, and its results can serve as an indicator of the entire food industry, worldwide consumer demand and health of the global economy.

Nestle said it had first-half profits of 5.1 billion Swiss francs (\$5.5 billion) in the January to June period, up from a restated 4.9 billion francs in the same period

last year.

Underlying sales growth fell to 4.1 percent for the first six months of the year, down from 6.6 percent in the comparable period a year earlier. In 2011, its first-half rate was 4.8 percent; in 2010, it was 6.1 percent. But midway through 2009, amid a global financial cri-

"Nestle Model" calls for the company to always sustain a 5-6 percent rate of organic revenue growth.

"It's not going to be easy. It's going to be a stretch," Chief Financial Officer Wan Ling Martello conceded during a webcast teleconference with investors and journalists.



The Nestle headquarters in Vevey, Switzerland is seen in the photo. Swiss food and drinks giant Nestle SA posted a 3.7 percent rise in first-half profits Thursday, Aug. 8, 2013, despite what it described as the challenges of slowing markets around the world and "value-conscious" consumers.

(AP Photo/Laurent Gillieron)

sis, its growth rate fell to 3.5 percent.

However, the company said it expects first-half momentum in so-called organic growth to continue in the second half, increasing to about 5 percent. The

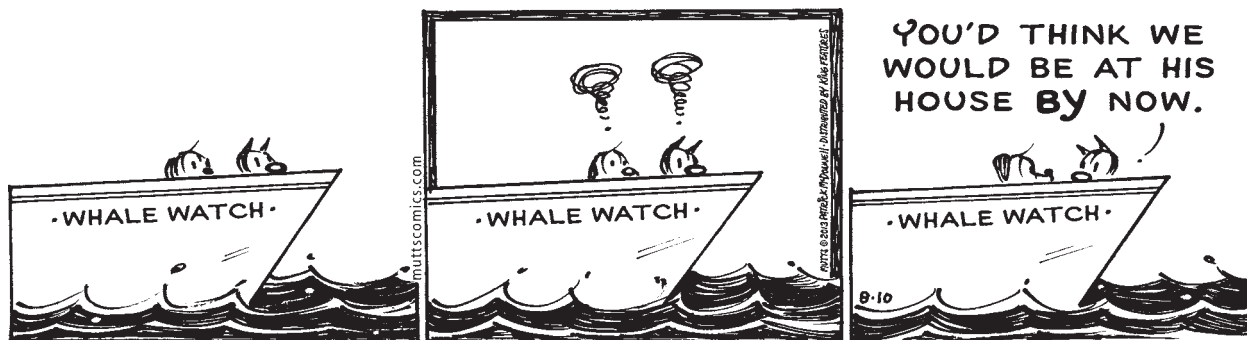
Contending with cash-strapped consumers, both in Europe and emerging markets, Nestle said its growth in developing markets slowed to 8.2 percent, down from 12.9 percent during the comparable

period a year ago, while growth in developed markets fell to 1 percent, down from 2.6 percent last year. Nestle said its sales rose 5.3 percent to 45.2 billion francs, up from a restated 42.9 billion francs in the comparable period a year ago. The company's prices have been adjusted downward in many countries to make its products more attractive for cash-strapped consumers, said Martello. Prices are set by local managers, not by global headquarters in Switzerland, she added, describing the process as the company "doing the right thing for our consumers, and therefore doing the right thing for our business."

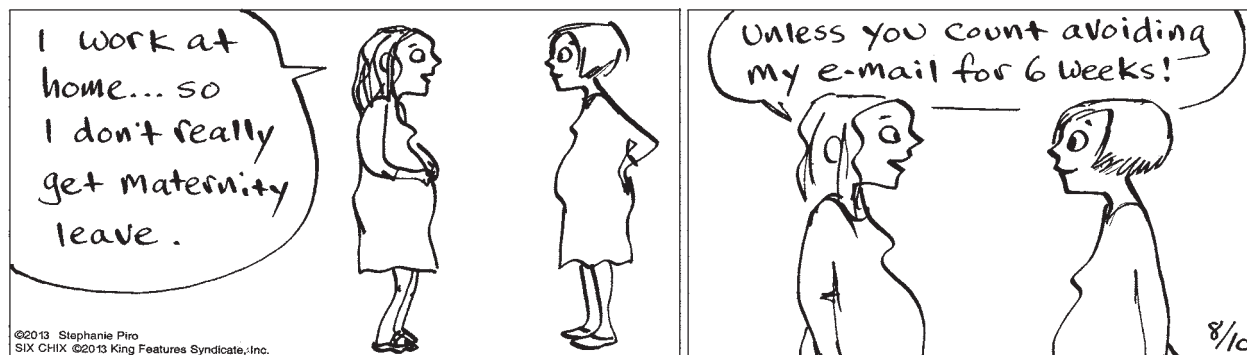
Chief Executive Paul Bulcke said the first half shows "a balanced performance, both top and bottom line, in an environment of lower growth and lower input costs."

The underlying sales growth, he said, was "somewhat muted, reflecting lower pricing by our markets, as we leveraged softer input costs to meet the expectations of today's more value-conscious consumers." □

Mutts



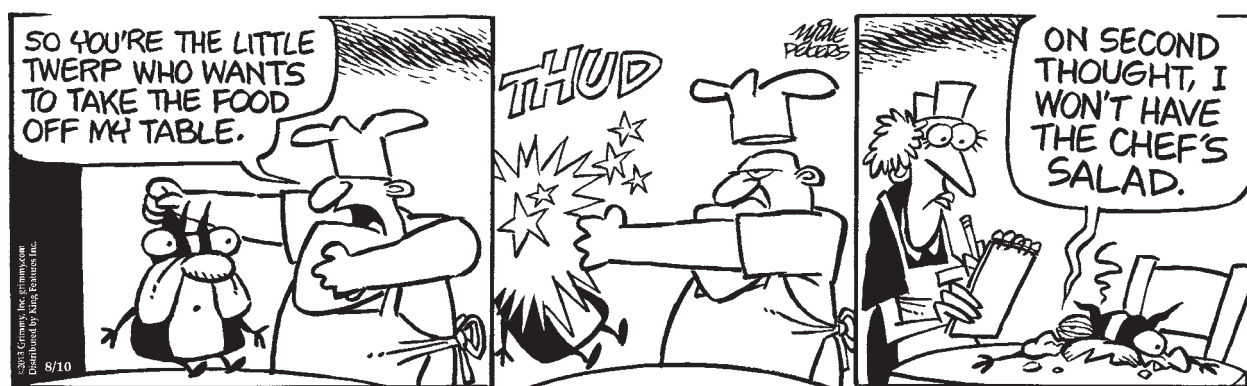
6 Chix



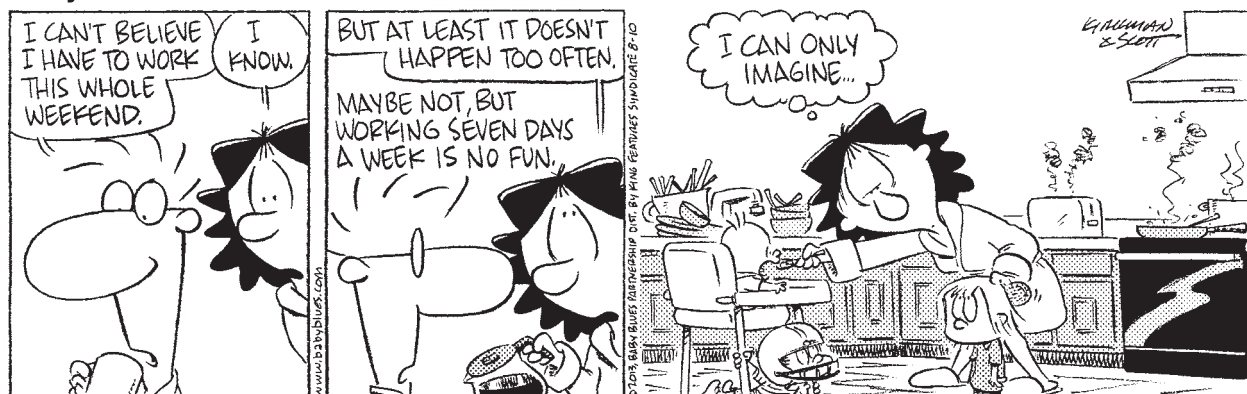
Blondie



Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

		6		7		1		
	2						5	
3			6		9			8
		3				7		
4				3				6
		8				9		
6			1		4			5
	3						4	
		7		9		2		

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

8/10

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

9	5	3	6	1	4	7	2	8
4	2	1	8	3	7	5	9	6
7	6	8	9	2	5	1	3	4
6	9	4	5	8	1	3	7	2
3	1	5	2	7	6	4	8	9
8	7	2	3	4	9	6	5	1
2	3	6	4	5	8	9	1	7
5	4	7	1	9	2	8	6	3
1	8	9	7	6	3	2	4	5

ACROSS

- Use a PC keyboard
- Light wood good for rafts
- Too
- Hit the __; leave home
- Once more
- Crazy as a __
- __ and crafts
- In a __ way; indirectly
- __ person; apiece
- Fix
- Musical speed
- Rome's nation
- "Yes, __"; polite response
- Limp; sagging
- Steamboat developer Robert __
- Palm tree fruits
- Creek
- Cauldron
- Enthusiastic
- Leg joints
- Lucy's Arnaz
- Affirmative
- Tendon
- Went public with
- Sniffs
- Make happy
- Become firm
- Ocean measurement
- Cone topper
- Tabbies & lions
- Mistaken
- Give in
- Formal fight
- Smallest bills
- Nile or Amazon
- Words of understanding
- Camp shelter
- Requirements
- Singer Seeger

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14				15						16		
17				18						19		
20				21						22		
23				24						25		
26				27						28		
29				30						31		
32				33						34		
35				36						37		
38				39						40		
41				42						43		
44				45						46		
47				48						49		
50				51						52		
53				54						55		
56				57						58		
59				60						61		
62				63						64		

Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

8/10/13

Friday's Puzzle Solved

TON	EBBED	TRAP
UNIT	SUAVE	IOWA
GENE	TILES	CLAD
SENSELESS	KEYS	
PIED	EW	
INFIRM	PARADIGM	
LOANS	POUTS	COO
IBIS	MARKS	GIRL
ALL	BARES	CONGA
DESERTED	LODGER	
ROT	ROAD	
HORA	REPENTANT	
AGES	EXILE	ROOF
TREE	SITAR	DAME
HELD	STAYS	HEW

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8/10/13

DOWN

- Ensnare
- Days of __; yesteryear
- Loyalty to one's country
- Count calories
- Snuzzed
- Mountains
- seen from Bern
- Haughty one
- __ out; gets exhausted
- Old; passé
- Dundee native
- Walking stick
- Not closed
- Excavation site
- Podiatrist's concerns
- Escape
- Fancy vase
- Whopper
- Short swim

2 Mexican teens: Van sold by US gov't had cocaine

ADRIANA GOMEZ LICON

Associated Press

MEXICO CITY (AP) — A Mexican family says that a van bought at a U.S. government auction came with an unwanted extra: an undiscovered package of cocaine beneath the dashboard.

Sergio Torres Duarte, 18, and his 19-year-old friend Julio Cesar Moreno were driving to a soccer match in November when they stopped at a routine police highway checkpoint near the Pacific Coast resort city of Mazatlan. They say they were stunned when officers discovered a kilogram (2.2 pounds) of cocaine beneath the dashboard of their blue 2004 Toyota Sienna. And they have been in jail fighting drug trafficking charges ever since.

After his son's arrest, Torres said this week, he began investigating and found that the van had been confiscated after U.S. customs agents had found five bundles of cocaine while inspecting the car at the international bridge in Pharr, Texas, in October 2011. Every brick of the drug had the word "Good" written with a black marker — just like the one seized by Mexican police, the father said. U.S. officials acknowledge they might have missed part of the drug. "Torres Duarte could have had the cocaine without knowing when he was arrested driving the car in Mexico," said a letter written to Mexican prosecutors by the U.S. Department of Justice attache in Mexico City, Tom Radcliff. Torres showed a copy of the letter to The Associated Press. The Department of Justice declined to comment, though the spokesman for the customs agen-

cy in McAllen, Phil Barrera, said authorities have been investigating since the family began complaining. It's not the first time people have been caught accidentally with drugs. In 2002, Mexican soldiers arrested two men after finding 22 packages of marijuana in a secret compartment of their SUV, also bought at a government auction. An appeals court finally threw out their five-year sentence after ruling the drugs had been hidden since a previous drug bust. □



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NOORD	587-0009
STA. CRUZ	585-4710
SAVANETA	584-7000
SAN NICOLAS	584-5000
FIRE DEPT.	115
FIRE DEPT.	582-1108
POLIS TIPLINE	11141
HOSPITAL	527-4000
AMBULANCE	582-1234
SAN NICOLAS	
AMBULANCE	584-5050

PHARMACY

O'STAD: Central Tel. 585-8077
S. NICOLAS: Seroe Preto Tel: 584-4833

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SETAR	582-2116
TAXI	582-5900
TAXI-TAS	587-5900
PROF. TAXI	588-0035
TAXI D.T.S.	587-2300
SERVICE ARUBA	583-3232

CRUISESHIP

Aug. 12 Monarch

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Dutch Antilles	588-1900
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NYC becomes archaeological site covering centuries

VERENA DOBNIK
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — The city has become an archaeological site, with thousands of artifacts such as an 18th-century bone toothbrush with animal hair bristles and wine and champagne bottles corked centuries ago unearthed to prove it. A copper half-penny and a pair of children's shoes are some of the other remnants of early New York life workers discovered in lower Manhattan while digging to install new utilities for the growing residential and business South Street Seaport area.

Last week, under a 15-foot (4.6-meter) stretch of Fulton Street, near Wall Street, more than 100 liquor bottles from the 18th century popped up, some still intact and corked, as first reported by the news website DNAinfo.com.

Archaeologist Alyssa Loorya, whose Brooklyn firm is overseeing the financial district excavation, said, "You never know what you'll find right underneath your feet in this city." "Finding the bits and pieces that were actually used by the people in the past makes New York City's history real," Loorya said Wednesday. "George



Items unearthed in Lower Manhattan are on display during a news conference, Wednesday, Aug. 7, 2013 in New York.

Washington lived right near here."

The ordinary objects paint an extraordinary picture of the city in the 1700s and 1800s — a community of Dutch and English settlers who hadn't yet spread north into what is today's Manhattan. The budding metropolis and its waterborne trade was still expanding into the East River and harbor with landfills for wharves using whatever was available, including some newly found artifacts

that had become garbage.

On a summer afternoon, Loorya stood on Fulton Street looking over a table of dirt-caked treasures, surrounded by towering office buildings, luxury residential skyscrapers and refurbished old merchants' houses and stores. The buildings rise above the pit dug into the cobblestone pavement for the crisscrossing electrical wires and water pipes now filling the space where the treasure trove was found

near the edge of the city's original shoreline.

Last October, at the peak of Superstorm Sandy, flood waters again surged up to that spot.

The most recent archaeological pay dirt was hundreds of bottle pieces, including those found last week, from pubs and taverns that had been watering holes for soldiers and sailors passing through.

Some of the bottles were never opened, though they're broken. They've

been taken to the laboratories of Loorya's firm, Chrysalis Archaeology, to be washed and examined for details such as one seal marked with the year 1764. Chrysalis oversees the Department of Design and Construction's excavation of the area while the new utilities are being installed, replacing Civil War-era pipes.

Last year, workers uncovered a 6-foot-long Revolutionary Era wall, likely from a building belonging to one of the powerful families that owned property and kept slaves. Also unearthed were 18th-century shoe buckles, pieces of pottery and a medicine bottle.

Loorya handled a Revolutionary War button worn by a soldier in a British regiment that fought in the 1776 Battle of Brooklyn, where colonizing forces defeated Washington's ragtag army.

The dig is part of a four-year, \$40 million redevelopment project to be finished by December, said civil engineer Thomas Foley, the department's assistant commissioner in charge of the project. About \$200,000 is being spent on the archaeological work, he said. □

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Da Vinci's study of flight to visit Smithsonian



This image provided by Italian Ministry of Cultural Heritage and Activities; Biblioteca Reale, shows a self portrait of Leonardo da Vinci, circa 1512.

Associated Press

BRETT ZONGKER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Leonardo da Vinci's early sketches of human flight some 400 years before the airplane's invention will make a rare visit to the Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum in Washington.

The museum announced Thursday that it will display da Vinci's "Codex on the Flight of Birds" between Sept. 13 and Oct. 22. The notebook from 1505 includes the famous artist's study of birds and his descriptions of how humans could one day fly.

The Biblioteca Reale in Turin, Italy, is loaning the document to the Smithsonian. It has been shown in the U.S. once before.

The historic document will be shown near Orville and Wilbur Wright's 1903 Flyer, the world's first successful powered aircraft. The museum says interactive stations will allow visitors to flip through the 18 pages of the codex. □



This undated file photo released by Columbia Pictures shows Spider-Man in a scene from the film "Spider-Man 3." Associated Press

NY court: Marvel can keep Spider-Man, X-Men comics

LARRY NEUMEISTER
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Spider-Man, Iron Man and The Incredible Hulk can continue to reside in Marvel's offices after a federal appeals court on Thursday rejected an ownership claim by the children of the artist who helped create them. The 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Manhattan agreed with a lower court judge who denied claims by the family of Jack Kirby, the legendary artist who died in 1994 and whose work spanned more than half a century.

His heirs in California and New York wanted to terminate Marvel's copyrights from 2014 through 2019 to comics published from 1958 to 1963.

Marvel Worldwide Inc. sued in January 2010 to prevent it, leading U.S. District Judge Colleen McMahon in July 2011 to conclude the work was done "for hire," a legal term that rendered the heirs' claims invalid. She said the 1909 copyright law that applies to the case presumed that Marvel was considered the author and owner of Kirby's creations because the characters were made at Marvel's expense.

The appeals court agreed, saying that when "Kirby sat down to draw, then, it was not in the hope that Marvel or some other publisher might one day be interest-

ed enough in them to buy, but with the expectation, established through their ongoing, mutually beneficial relationship, that Marvel would pay him."

It added: "Kirby's completed pencil drawings, moreover, were generally not free-standing creative works, marketable to any publisher as a finished or nearly finished product. They build on pre-existing titles and themes that Marvel had expended resources to establish — and in which Marvel held rights — and they required both creative contributions and production work that Marvel supplied. That the works are now valuable is therefore in substantial part a function of Marvel's expenditures over and above the flat rate it paid Kirby for his drawings." The appeals court traced the early history of Marvel, noting that it fell on hard times due to bad business decisions in the 1940s and 1950s but did well again after the release of the first issues of "The Fantastic Four" in 1961.

Other comics in the case included The Mighty Thor, The X-Men, The Avengers, Ant-Man, Nick Fury and The Rawhide Kid.

In a statement, Marvel said: "We are gratified by the appellate court's definitive ruling that there is no legitimate basis to terminate our ownership of the copyrights at issue." □

Kutcher: Better at keeping personal life private

JOHN CARUCCI

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — After embodying Steve Jobs in his new movie, Ashton Kutcher came to admire how the Apple Computer founder was able to balance his public and personal lives.

"He was better at it than I am," the 35-year old actor said. "This business has a propensity to force you to be more public than you probably want to be," Kutcher acknowledged of show business.

He should know. The actor has seen his share of tabloid headlines after his very public breakup with actress Demi Moore, and his current relationship with his former "That 70s Show" co-star Mila Kunis has also been widely publicized.

But Kutcher says he's getting better at it.

"I think I've learned how to restrict that public image and over the years I'm starting to understand the value of privacy," he said. In the film, he plays the techno prophet, who along with Steve "Woz"



Actor Ashton Kutcher is interviewed as he attends a special screening of "JOBS" hosted by The Wall Street Journal at the Museum of Modern Art on Wednesday, Aug. 7, 2013, in New York.

Associated Press

Wozniak ignited the personal computer revolution. Jobs died two years ago after a battle with pancreatic cancer. He was 56. Kutcher said that researching the role he found there was a "Steve that Steve didn't always want to show."

He also cited that the most important aspect of playing such a public figure was to understand that the version of Jobs we know best

came much later.

"The guy with the glasses and the jeans and black turtleneck and the New Balance shoes giving a keynote speech to present some new, great, next, amazing product ... He wasn't always that guy. He actually evolved into that person in the same way that I'm not the same today at 35 as I was at 25, and I was at 15," Kutcher said. □

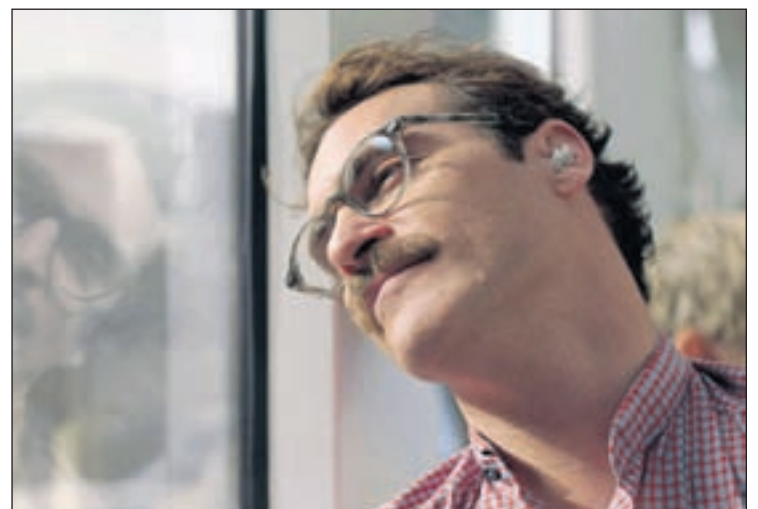
Spike Jonze's 'Her' to close New York Film Fest

NEW YORK (AP) — Spike Jonze's futuristic romance "Her" will close the New York Film Festival.

The Film Society of Lincoln Center announced the gala selection Thursday for its 51st festival. The film stars Joaquin Phoenix as a Los Angeles man who, in the near future, becomes intrigued with a new operating system voiced by Scarlett Johansson.

Warner Bros. will release the film from the "Being John Malkovich" director on Nov. 20.

"Her" marks the third high-profile release that will premiere at the New York Film Festival. Lincoln Center earlier announced that Paul



This image released by Warner Bros. Pictures shows Joaquin Phoenix in a scene from the Spike Jonze film, "Her."

Associated Press

Greengrass's "Captain Phillips," starring Tom Hanks, will open the festival, and that Ben Stiller's "The Secret

Life of Walter Mitty" will be the centerpiece.

The festival runs Sept. 27 through Oct. 13. □

Long-lost Orson Welles silent film found in Italy

COLLEEN BARRY

Associated Press

MILAN (AP) — A long-lost Orson Welles film that was believed destroyed in a 1970 fire has been discovered in a northern Italian warehouse and will finally make its public debut 75 years after being filmed, an Italian film archive announced Thursday. The silent film "Too Much Johnson," a slapstick comedy made just before Welles went to Hollywood to film "Citizen Kane," was found in a box that had been stored for years in the northeastern city of Pordenone before being identified, said Giuliana Puppini, a spokeswoman for the archive, Cineteca del Friuli. How the 35mm nitrate print arrived in Pordenone remains a mystery.

Found by a shipping company, it was turned over at some point to a local film society — but the film seemed of no particular

value and was left unopened for many years, Puppini said.

"We don't know where the box came from. There were no documents with it. We don't know the road it took," Puppini said.

"Too Much Johnson" stars Joseph Cotten and is less a feature film than a series of scenes made to be shown as part of a production of the play by the same name, said Circo Giorgini, an Italian expert on Welles who identified the film about three years ago. It was never finished and never shown publicly.

While the existence of the film was known, the only remaining copy was believed to have been destroyed in a 1970 fire at Welles' home in Madrid. It is not known how many copies of the film were actually made.

Giorgini said he knew immediately "Too Much Johnson" had been found



This photo provided by A.M.P.A.S. shows Orson Welles on location for the 1938 film "Too Much Johnson". This photo provided by A.M.P.A.S. shows Orson Welles on location for the 1938 film "Too Much Johnson".
Associated Press

when he got a call from a friend saying he believed he was in possession of a Welles film that starred Cotten wearing a straw hat — the give-away.

"I said, 'It is something very precious, take care of it. You have found a film that has been missing for de-

cades,'" Giorgini said.

The expert said actually viewing the film "was like finding an important, lost painting — like seeing a painting of Caravaggio that no one knew about."

"This movie shows that Welles, still younger than we knew, at the age of 20,

was demonstrating a great talent and great mastery of cinema. It would be confirmed a few years later with 'Citizen Kane,'" he said.

Giorgini, who made a 1993 documentary about Welles, said he believes the movie was left behind when Welles bolted Italy, where he had been living, after a gossip magazine reported he was having an affair while married to his third wife, Paola Mori.

"He was very protective of his private life, and he packed his bags and left within a week. As far as I know, he never returned to Italy," Giorgini said.

The film has been newly restored by the George Eastman House in Rochester, New York, with funding by the National Film Preservation Foundation in San Francisco. It will debut Oct. 9 at Le Giornate del Cinema Muto, a silent film festival in Pordenone. □



In this May 14, 2012 publicity file photo provided by KPP, President of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences Tom Sherak and actress Karen Black are seen during "Keeping the Promise," presented by California Disabled Veterans Business Alliance at Marriott Hotel in Los Angeles.

HILLEL ITALIE

AP National Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Karen Black, the prolific actress who appeared in more than 100 movies and was featured in such counter-culture favorites as "Easy Rider," "Five Easy Pieces" and "Nashville," has died. Black's husband, Stephen Eckelberry, says the actress died Wednesday from complications from cancer. She was 74.

Known for her full lips and thick, wavy hair that seemed to change color from film to film, Black often portrayed women

who were quirky, troubled or threatened. Her breakthrough was as a prostitute who takes LSD with Dennis Hopper and Peter Fonda in 1969's "Easy Rider," the hippie classic that helped get her the role of Rayette DiPesto, a waitress who dates — and is mistreated by — an upper-class dropout played by Jack Nicholson in 1970's "Five Easy Pieces." Cited by The New York Times as a "pathetically appealing vulgarian," Black's performance won her an Oscar nomination and Golden Globe Award. She would recall that playing

'Five Easy Pieces' star Karen Black dead at 74

Rayette really was acting: The well-read, cerebral Black, raised in a comfortable Chicago suburb, had little in common with her relatively simple-minded character.

"If you look through the eyes of Rayette, it looks nice, really beautiful, light, not heavy, not serious. A very affectionate woman who would look upon things with love, and longing," Black told Venice Magazine in 2007. "A completely uncritical person, and in that sense, a beautiful person. When (director) Bob Rafelson called me to his office to discuss the part he said, 'Karen, I'm worried you can't play this role because you're too smart.' I said 'Bob, when you call "action," I will stop thinking,' because that's how Rayette is.'" In 1971, Black starred with Nicholson again in "Drive, He Said," which Nicholson also directed. Over the next few years, she worked with such

top actors and directors as Richard Benjamin ("Portnoy's Complaint"), Robert Redford and Mia Farrow ("The Great Gatsby") and Charlton Heston ("Airport 1975"). She was nominated for a Grammy Award after writing and performing songs for "Nashville," in which she played a country singer in Robert Altman's 1975 ensemble epic. Black also starred as a jewel thief in Alfred Hitchcock's last movie, "Family Plot," released in 1976.

"We used to read each other poems and limericks and tried to catch me on my vocabulary," she later said of Hitchcock. "He once said, 'You seem very perspicacious today, Miss Black.' I said, 'Oh, you mean "keenly perceptive?" 'Yes.' So I got him this huge, gold-embossed dictionary that said 'Diction-Harry,' at the end of the shoot."

The actress would claim that her career as an A-list actress was ruined by "The

Day of the Locust," a troubled 1975 production of the Nathanael West novel that brought her a Golden Globe nomination but left Black struggling to find quality roles.

By the end of the '70s, she was appearing in television and in low-budget productions. Black received strong reviews in 1982 as a transsexual in Altman's "Come Back to the Five and Dime, Jimmy Dean, Jimmy Dean." But despite working constantly over the next 30 years, she was more a cult idol than a major Hollywood star.

Her credits included guest appearances on such TV series as "Law & Order" and "Party of Five" and enough horror movies, notably "Trilogy of Terror," that a punk band named itself "The Voluptuous Horror of Karen Black."

Black was married four times. She is survived by Eckelberry, a son and a daughter. □

Striking Olympic Gold



FRANK BRUNI
© 2013 New York Times

Imagine this: It's the opening ceremony of the 2014 Winter Games in Sochi, Russia. A huge television event, watched the world over. The U.S. Olympians join the proud march of nations. They're our emissaries, our exemplars. And as the television cameras zoom in on Team USA, one of its members quietly pulls out a rainbow flag, no bigger than a handkerchief, and holds it up. Not ostentatiously high, but just high enough that it can't be mistaken.

Another American follows suit. Then another, and another. Within minutes the flags are everywhere in the U.S. delegation, subtly recurring bursts of color and of honor, a gay-rights motif with a message: We're here in Russia to compete, but we're not here in Russia to assent. We have gay sisters. Gay brothers. Gay neighbors and friends and fans and probably teammates, and we reject the laws of a land that deems it OK to arrest them for speaking their truth or us for speaking up for them.

This silent show of solidarity would wordlessly mock recently enacted Russian legislation against propaganda of nontraditional sexual relations, which, let's be clear, doesn't mean gay recruitment pamphlets, as if such literature existed. It's more vague and potentially broad than that. It could mean something like "Modern Family." It could mean logos and ribbons and, yes, flags: anything connoting pride rather than shame. Anything asserting that gay people aren't miscreants, predators, trash. The law is an outrageous act of hatred in a country of nearly 145 million people that fancies itself a global leader and should know better. And as the U.S. Olympians' imagined rebuke of it sank in, the country's authorities would be forced to stand by and seethe. Confronting the athletes would only heighten attention to what they're doing. For the duration of the opening ceremony, before the eyes of the world, our values, not Vladimir Putin's, would prevail.

Over the past two weeks, alarm over Russia's anti-gay campaign has grown louder, beginning with a must-read Op-Ed article by playwright Harvey Fierstein in The Times. And there have been increasingly urgent

calls for Americans to do something about that campaign, which extends to adoption regulations and tourist restrictions. Fierstein has floated a boycott of the Olympics. There's precedent. Meantime, gay bars in the United States and other countries have heeded a plea from LGBT rights advocates to remove Russian vodka from their shelves, in the hope that economic pain will equal legislative pressure on Russia to repeal its anti-gay laws. Advocates have trained their ire on Stolichnaya vodka, or Stoli, in particular. But that focus exposes a flaw in the vodka boycott, well intentioned but imprecise.

"While Stoli's ingredients - wheat, rye and raw alcohol - are Russian, the vodka itself is distilled in Latvia and distributed in the U.S. by William Grant & Sons USA, an American subsidiary of a Scottish corporation," a recent post on Time magazine's website noted.

As for a U.S. boycott of the Olympics, it would punish athletes who've been training and dreaming and sacrificing for years. It might redirect the conversation from how Russia treats gays to whether the United States overreacted. And it would close off the kind of statement that U.S. athletes have a thrilling opportunity to orchestrate. Maybe that statement isn't a flag but "a visible pin, an armband, a bracelet," as Greg Louganis, an openly gay diver who won medals for the United States in three Olympics, recently suggested. Maybe it's something small stitched into the uniforms. Leaders of the advocacy groups Athlete Ally and You Can Play and the website Outsports, all of which specifically promote LGBT sensitivity among athletes, oppose a boycott. "History remembers the athletes who showed up," Patrick Burke, a founder of You Can Play, wrote in a post for BuzzFeed. History would certainly remember U.S. athletes who signaled their belief in the dignity of gays and lesbians, lending action to the sometimes hollow words that America serves as a beacon to the world, a city on a hill, a champion of human rights. History would also remember athletes from the many other countries that might be persuaded to follow our righteous lead. Imagine rainbow flags or comparable symbols not just in the U.S. delegation but in the British, French, Argentine and South African ones. Imagine what that would say and how that would feel to a 14-year-old girl watching from rural Oklahoma, where she worries hourly about her attraction to other girls and its impact on her future. Or to a 35-year-old gay man in one of the many African countries where homosexual acts are punishable with lengthy prison sentences or even death. Or to a lesbian or gay Russian of any age. That's an Olympic moment to rival any quadruple toe loop. That's pure gold. □



Republicans Against Reality



PAUL KRUGMAN
© 2013 New York Times

Last week House Republicans voted for the 40th time to repeal Obamacare. Like the previous 39 votes, this action will have no effect whatsoever. But it was a stand-in for what Republicans really want to do: repeal reality, and the laws of arithmetic in particular.

The sad truth is that the modern GOP is lost in fantasy, unable to participate in actual governing. Just to be clear, I'm not talking about policy substance. I may believe that Republicans have their priorities all wrong, but that's not the issue here. Instead, I'm talking about their apparent inability to accept very basic reality constraints, like the fact that you can't cut overall spending without cutting spending on particular programs, or the fact that voting to repeal legislation doesn't change the law when the other party controls the Senate and the White House.

Am I exaggerating? Consider what went down in Congress last week.

First, House leaders had to cancel planned voting on a transportation bill, because not enough representatives were willing to vote for the bill's steep spending cuts. Now, just a few months ago House Republicans approved an extreme austerity budget, mandating severe overall cuts in federal spending - and each specific bill will have to involve large cuts in order to

meet that target. But it turned out that a significant number of representatives, while willing to vote for huge spending cuts as long as there weren't any specifics, balked at the details. Don't cut you, don't cut me, cut that fellow behind the tree. Then House leaders announced plans to hold a vote cutting spending on food stamps in half - a demand that is likely to sink the already struggling effort to agree with the Senate on a farm bill.

Then they held the pointless vote on Obamacare, apparently just to make themselves feel better. (It's curious how comforting they find the idea of denying health care to millions of Americans.) And then they went home for recess, even though the end of the fiscal year is looming and hardly any of the legislation needed to run the federal government has passed.

In other words, Republicans, confronted with the responsibilities of governing, essentially threw a tantrum, then ran off to sulk.

How did the GOP get to this point? On budget issues, the proximate source of the party's troubles lies in the decision to turn the formulation of fiscal policy over to a con man. Rep. Paul Ryan, chairman of the House Budget Committee, has always been a magic-asterisk kind of guy - someone who makes big claims about having a plan to slash deficits, but refuses to spell out any of the all-important details.

Back in 2011 the Congressional Budget Office, in evaluating one of Ryan's plans, came close to open sarcasm; it described the extreme spending cuts Ryan was assuming, then remarked, tersely, "No proposals were specified that would generate that path."

What's happening now is that the GOP is trying to convert Ryan's big talk into actual leg-

islation - and is finding, unsurprisingly, that it can't be done. Yet Republicans aren't willing to face up to that reality. Instead, they're just running away.

When it comes to fiscal policy, then, Republicans have fallen victim to their own con game. And I would argue that something similar explains how the party lost its way, not just on fiscal policy, but on everything.

Think of it this way: For a long time the Republican establishment got its way by playing a con game with the party's base. Voters would be mobilized as soldiers in an ideological crusade, fired up by warnings that liberals were going to turn the country over to gay married terrorists, not to mention taking your hard-earned dollars and giving them to Those People. Then, once the election was over, the establishment would get on with its real priorities - deregulation and lower taxes on the wealthy.

At this point, however, the establishment has lost control. Meanwhile, base voters actually believe the stories they were told - for example, that the government is spending vast sums on things that are a complete waste or at any rate don't do anything for people like them. (Don't let the government get its hands on Medicare!) And the party establishment can't get the base to accept fiscal or political reality without, in effect, admitting to those base voters that they were lied to.

The result is what we see now in the House: a party that, as I said, seems unable to participate in even the most basic processes of governing.

What makes this frightening is that Republicans do, in fact, have a majority in the House, so America can't be governed at all unless a sufficient number of those House Republicans are willing to face reality. And that quorum of reasonable Republicans may not exist. □

Giants Put Training Camp On The Home Schedule

Bill Pennington

© 2013 New York Times

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. -

Once upon a time, pro football training camps were like other summer camps: dormitory-style rooms in a country setting, a day overloaded with physical activities, communal meals and lots of late-night bonding. For NFL players, the camp experience, which in their case often included sneaking out in the evening to drink at local bars, was widely viewed as essential to the unity and camaraderie of the team.

This year, the New York Giants, like many other NFL teams, have not gone away to a relatively remote location in New York, Connecticut, Vermont or Oregon, as they had for nearly 80 years. The Giants instead chose to stay in the Meadowlands, where several years ago they built a state-of-the-art practice facility with offices, meeting and locker rooms, multiple grass fields and a massive indoor field house. The players are housed in a swanky hotel overlooking the Giants' compound.

But is it training camp if you don't go away? What about sneaking out at night? What about the pranks in dormitories? What about the rotten, ill-suited dorm beds?

"I do kind of miss that traditional camp life," Giants quarterback Eli Manning said. "The fun part of training camp was that we were in dorms with large common rooms to gather in. You would get four guys together and some other guys would come by and we'd sit around watching TV and joking around. That was a good thing."

But the little-boy-on-a-sleepover concept swirled in Manning's head for only so long. He looked wistful as he spoke of camps past, but he understood reality as well. The colossal practice complexes that many NFL teams have built are serious-minded places that maximize a team's output. Why leave these palaces of productivity to go to some college campus in

the hypothetical search of team harmony?

"This year's setup is certainly more efficient," Manning said.

"You're not driving back and forth to the cafeteria or having a long walk to a meeting or to practice. Everything is here in one place: meeting rooms, video, the computers, the weight room, the meals.

you hadn't seen all winter because lots of guys would go home after the season ended."

But Simms notes that the game has changed since then. Players are more likely to work out with their teammates in the offseason than go their separate ways, so bonding becomes less of a consideration for summer camp. That puts the focus

a-day practices. There are frequent days off. It becomes less important to have everyone in a remote collegelike setting when training camp is turned into something like a 9-to-5 workday.

John Mara, a Giants' co-owner, has been visiting NFL training camps for more than 50 years.

"You do lose something by

"So I guess they bonded OK then," Mara said.

The veteran Giants guard Chris Snee, like Manning, saw the inherent conflict as he weighed what has been gained against what has been lost.

"In Albany, I did like the bonding time at night," Snee said. "But now, I don't have to leave my wife and kids for a month because



New York Giants wide receiver Jeremy Horne dives for the corner during training in East Rutherford, N.J., July 29, 2013. This year, the Giants, like many other NFL teams, have not gone away to a relatively remote location for training camp, but instead chose to stay in New Jersey, where several years ago they built a state-of-the-art practice facility.

(Tim Clayton/The New York Times)

We come in at 8:30 for our first morning meeting and then we're here the rest of the day."

But a camp by definition connotes some form of relaxation or recreation. Players living in dorms were renowned for taking naps after lunch and for playing poker at night - or for taking naps because they were up late playing poker.

"All those things were true," former Giants quarterback Phil Simms said. "Guys snuck out at night and guys pulled all kinds of pranks on each other. It was a lot of fun.

And in camp you did get reacquainted with guys

back on the facilities.

"They have these fabulous practice complexes, so why would they go to some subpar place?" he said. "And all that sneaking out at night stuff would be impossible to do now anyway. If five guys snuck out late, someone would take a picture of them, tweet it, and those five guys would be getting ripped all over sports talk radio the next morning."

The itinerary of a typical NFL camp has also been altered by modern labor agreements, which greatly reduce the daily practice and meeting demands on the players. Gone are two-

not being in a dormitory setting, there's no question about it," Mara said. "But there are many other considerations now, like the weather and an indoor facility. Because of the new collective bargaining agreement, we have a limited number of training camp days to practice. Missing a few days to rain is a bigger problem than it once was."

Mara also noted that, because of the 2011 NFL lockout of the players, the Giants were forced to conduct a reformatted training camp at the Meadowlands complex. They won the Super Bowl that season.

they can come after practice. So you see both sides." Even if the Giants and other teams no longer sequester themselves in some rural location for a month as their predecessors regularly did, it does not mean that all the traditions of a pro football training camp have vanished.

Linebacker Spencer Paysinger recalled being a 2011 rookie asleep in his bed at the team hotel when four veterans burst into the room and doused him with buckets of water. "It doesn't matter if we're in Albany, New Jersey or on the moon," Paysinger said. "Boys will be boys." □